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Car firm celebrates with all the trappings

Marlene Dietrich sings "Falling in Love Again" from the passenger compartment of a BMW Dixi in her *Blue Angel* film pose as the vamp who wreaks havoc with the life of a small-town teacher.

She is part of a multi-media show illustrating the 65-year history of BMW in a newly-opened museum at the Munich motor manufacturer's corporate headquarters in the Bavarian capital.

So are a platoon of mud-splattered Wehrmacht soldiers accompanying a battle-worn R7, the legendary World War II motorcycle.

They were to have been seen against a vocal background of shellfire from a concealed loudspeaker as originally envisaged by the artistic team that devised the show.

But the noise of battle was one of 68 details revised at the last minute by order of the boardroom in the "four-cylinder" Munich head office.

It was one of the reasons for the dispute that delayed the opening of the BMW Museum for four weeks, although fire regulations were officially stated to have been the cause.

"We suddenly realised that we were not quite ready on a number of points," said board chairman Eberhard von Kuenheim blandly. But the doors finally opened on Signs of the Times, as the exhibition is entitled.

It is still somewhat unconventional in a building of unconventional design. An aircraft, 19 BMW motor vehicles and other company products are seen against the background of contemporary history of the past 65 years.

Exhibits include, for instance, the rusty BMW engine of a World War II Luftwaffe bomber shot down in action.

Life-size waxworks-style models of figures from the history of the "BMW era" mark chapters in the company's progress. Ten video programmes run non-stop on 114 monitor screens.

Old film footage and soundtracks tell the tale of motors, people and powers — aided and abetted by plants, "moving" noises and music from countless loudspeakers.

The aim is not only to convey an idea of the period from which the BMW in question dates but also to make the visitor imagine he was there at the time.

From a comfortable car seat high up above the exhibits he can take a bird's-eye look at the entire multi-media show, coming back down a moving staircase through a utopian city that is designed to suit people rather than cars.

"Technology ought still to have leeway for amazement" was the leitmotiv of exhibit organiser Eberhard Schoener, the creator of laser music.

As artistic manager he was unruffled by the 68 last-minute changes made by the BMW board to a show that cost the company DM2.5m. The Wehrmacht platoon were not only deprived of their battle noise, for instance; they were also disarmed.

But the artistic team were most upset by the removal from one tableau of the German Michel leading a flock of sheep behind Charlie Chaplin's Great Dictator.

Michel is a nightcapped figure of fun reminiscent of one of Snow White's Seven Dwarfs whom Germans readily if ruefully accept as a personification of the average German. He is Germany's counterpart to Uncle Sam or John Bull.

But BMW drew the line at this insult to the German people (although, oddly enough, the flock of sheep can still be seen following in the Great Dictator's footsteps).

Designer refuses to come to opening

Schoener termed this arbitrary "interference with an artistic product," while set designer Wilfried Minks, artistic manager of Frankfurt municipal theatres and in charge of visualisation at the BMW Museum, was so disgusted he preferred not to appear at the opening.

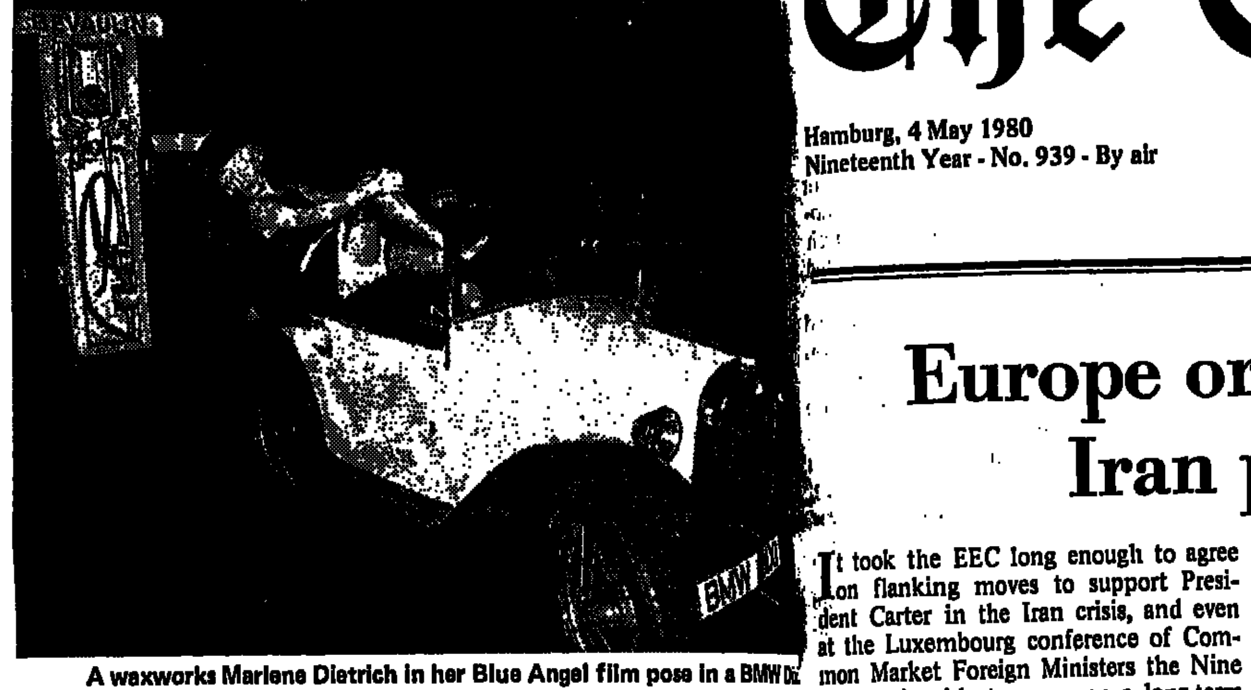
He said it was "childish and narrow-minded to argue about German Michel in front of the Press."

The board, Herr von Kuenheim said, had unanimously agreed that the Great Dictator was not a specifically German phenomenon. By removing the German angle they had hoped to "internationalise" the show.

Yet, albeit at a later stage in the BMW story, an undeniably symbolic German figure, Konrad Adenauer, was added to the accompanying exhibits.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 April 1980)



A waxworks Marlene Dietrich in her Blue Angel film pose in a BMW Di

Social justice

Continued from page 11

Free University of Berlin — in the politics and economics of the Middle East.

The universities are also discussing the methods and aims of their teaching. The critical point here is the insistence by orientalists that students must have a thorough knowledge of one oriental language, as this is the key to an understanding of any foreign culture.

The other problem is the lack of job prospects for orientalists.

Despite increased public awareness of the importance of the Middle East and of oriental studies, there are still many highly qualified graduates in oriental studies who are unemployed.

The public needs to be made more aware of the problem of unemployment of graduate orientalists.

The situation as it stands is a luxury we simply cannot afford.

Anneliese Wilke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 April 1980)

The bicycle makes a comeback

Bicycles are both ecologica economically the most means of local transport there Heinrich von Lersner, head of the ral Environment Agency, West Be

He made this encouraging at the opening of an Internationa ing Congress in Bremen.

Organised cyclists led by Club president Jahn Tebbe emerge as a powerful lobby for rights for two-wheelers on the road

Some 400 delegates from all world, including official from the United States, Sweden, Benelux, France and Switzerland, ed.

West Germany lacks 50,000 cycle track, said Herbert Brückr men's Senator of Health. He was to Bremen University in an offi to deliver his speech, which spoiled the effect.

But the bike is growing in tance. Herr von Lersner said al ready cover 40 per cent of their by bike or moped or on foot.

About 85 per cent of West G households and 60 per cent of th pulation own bicycles. Only 29 per own a car. This indeed is the pro

"More than two people in th not have a car," says cycling tow ner Gerhard Bahrenberg, a Bremen versity teacher, "but traffic is still made to suit the needs of the car."

The Federal Environment Ag to finance field trials in a West town to develop ideas of how be a town tailor-made to suit the ne the bicycle.

125 local authorities have app house the project.

Roughly four million bicycles are sold in West Germany, said Thun of the Cycle Manufacturers ciation. He too was hoping the conference would boost the two- trade.

Dietrich Oeter, a doctor on the of the Public Health Academy, nearly 20,000 road deaths a year Germany as the result of car-ori traffic policies drawn up by traffi town planners.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 11 Ap

Queue forms for job in windmill

A local authority in Münster, Westphalia, advertised a vacancy for a miller to operate two museum windmills in Detmold, little suspecting they would be bombarded with applicants.

"We were worried there might be none at all," an official commented. But more than 100 people applied for a job that was obviously more popular than the authorities expected.

"Many people would like a simple life without stress, assembly-lines and computers," a spokesman for the personnel department said. "They are delirious about work in which they can see for themselves the product of manual labour."

This is one of the reasons why there has been a deluge of applicants lately for jobs such as forester or shepherd. But the dream of paradise is wishful thinking. It is hard work running a windmill.

Just as the forester does not spend all day strolling round the woods with a rifle under his arm and a dachshund at his heel the Detmold windmiller will not be lazing around because there is no wind.

"We shall have to make it quite clear to applicants that they will be required to put in hard work," the spokesman said.

Heavy sacks of grain must be manhandled round a historic windmill that lacks the modern convenience of dust disposal facilities that are standard fittings at commercial flour mills.

"The man appointed will need to be on standby at night to turn the blades in the wind in a storm so they do not snap." The salary will be a modest DM25,000 a year.

Yet applicants include several teachers, a university-trained sociologist, an organ-builder, a bargeman and two dozen people who claim previous experience of working in a windmill!

"They even include a former miller named Müller."

Detmold open-air museum boasts two windmills, one a Dutch model dating back to 1789. They were rebuilt on the present site for DM220,000.

The miller will mill flour in each in turn. His hourly output will be about five quintals, or 10cwt. It will be sold to museum visitors.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 April 1980)

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Europe orchestrates Iran policy

It took the EEC long enough to agree on flanking moves to support President Carter in the Iran crisis, and even at the Luxembourg conference of Common Market Foreign Ministers the Nine were only able to agree on a long-term graduated plan.

This graduated plan of action was unlikely to provide Washington with more than a brief respite in its bid to secure the release of the US embassy hostages in Tehran.

Mr Carter is campaigning for re-election and his prospects stand or fall with factors that include the fate of the US diplomats held hostage in the Iranian capital.

The atmosphere in the United States is tense and it was doubtful at the time of writing how long the President could afford to bide his time before incensed US opinion called for further action.

He no longer has much leeway in the choice of moves he can make against the obdurate Ayatollah Khomeini. The next step, after an embargo on food and drug supplies, would seem to be a naval blockade.

That would mean a war footing, with all the incalculable risks that entails. So it is a little facile to accuse the Nine of having been too hesitant and letting down their American ally yet again.

Western European governments have always feared the fateful progression of events towards which the clash between Washington and Tehran seemed destined to lead, the escalating cycle of threats, pressure, retaliation and counter-pressure.

Unlike Carter's and Khomeini's strategies, laced with deadlines and ultimatums, the policy pursued by Western Europe has aimed to forestall at all costs a progression from crisis to conflict, given that conflict might, in the final analysis, no longer prove containable.

The Luxembourg decisions taken by the EEC's Foreign Ministers neatly fit in with crisis management of this kind. They do Iran no harm (not at any rate, at the present stage) but they make the EEC's position clear.

Ayatollah Khomeini is given time until his new Parliament meets to change his tune on the hostages. Until then he will have to accept an embargo on military supplies and skeleton staff at EEC embassies in Tehran.

President Carter, on the other hand, now knows he can count on full backing from his European allies if the Iranian leader fails to back down.

Even France will no longer stand aloof from root-and-branch economic sanctions and a total break-off of diplomatic ties.

Mr Carter may will have lost patience on the hostages issue but he must surely have been satisfied with the stand taken by the Common Market countries.

Neither he nor they can be interested in seeing Iran completely uncoupled from the Western world and left with no choice but to seek economic and political ties with Moscow and its satellites.

This risk would certainly have been run if the EEC governments had gone too far and threatened Iran with tougher retaliatory measures at this stage of the proceedings.

So it would be wrong to poke fun at the Common Market countries for having given their decision careful consideration and even holding a special last-minute session to reappraise the point of fixed deadlines.

Shooting straight from the hip is unlikely to solve complex problems in any but the most exceptional circumstances.

As for EEC solidarity with the United States, it is worth noting that for Tehran the Common Market is far too interesting a trading partner for Iran to be unduly anxious to explore new markets in Eastern Europe, especially in the wake of the US embargo.

Western Europe here has an important representative role to play, and Washington ought to be only too happy to allow Europe to keep the West's economic options open.

This, of course, is to presuppose that the United States has not yet come to the conclusion that it must write off an important, linchpin state in the Middle East.

Bernd Stadelmann

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 April 1980)



A break from the pressure of the affairs of state: EEC ministers meeting in Luxembourg to discuss the question of sanctions against Iran manage the time to share a joke: From left, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington; Bonn Minister of State Klaus von Dohnanyi; French Foreign Minister Jean François-Poncet; and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

Crucial Bonn decision backs boycott

Late in the day, with regret and after lengthy consideration, the Bonn government has decided on a clear and unambiguous Olympic boycott recommendation.

In the way in which Chancellor Schmidt phrased the boycott decision, borrowing from Foreign Minister Genscher an adept line of argument, it cannot be said to have come too late.

Herr Schmidt said it had been up to the Soviet Union to ensure conditions in which he could have had no hesitation in allowing a West German team to attend the Moscow Olympics.

Moscow, however, had failed to do so and had only itself to blame for destroying the Games. The Olympic idea was concerned not only with sport amd young people but also with peace.

This clear viewpoint now stated by Bonn is rendered more valuable and lent added weight by being wholeheartedly endorsed by the Opposition. It is supported by the entire Bundestag and all political representatives of the Federal Republic.

It is reassuring to see political parties join forces in a crisis that calls for points held in common to be given preference over differences of opinion.

This party-political unison lends added weight to the Bonn government's decision both towards the country's disappointed would-be Olympic athletes and towards the United States and the Soviet Union.

It is wrong to regard the boycott as punishment of the Soviet Union or imply that this might be or have been the case. It would be more fitting to term it a demonstration of joint condemnation of an act of aggression and as a warning shot.

There has lately been much talk of 1914 and even comparison with 1938, depending which historical situation was felt best to compare with the current position.

Historical comparisons may never be entirely apt but one point is surely clear. For some time a great power, the Soviet Union, has again been leaving out no opportunity of expanding its power.

The leading communist country openly admits to expansion as a programmatic aim yet purports to be cut to the quick when the West and Third World countries answer back.

The Olympic spectacle, a mass demonstration designed to delight the Soviet people and underline the legitimacy of the Soviet system, must now be a virtual write-off as far as the Soviet Union is concerned.

Pilloried by such a wide spectrum of world opinion, the Soviet Union, even with its skilled and imaginative propaganda machine, should find it difficult to explain the boycott to the Soviet public.

Maybe (just maybe) the Olympic debacle will put a damper on expansionist Soviet designs.

The Kremlin has warned of serious consequences of an Olympic boycott, especially in Bonn. Moscow must evidently have hoped to make an impression with such threats in a seat of government where the boycott decision was taking time in coming.

The rebutt must have come in an all the more impressive manner. Were it so to happen, it would by no means be the first time the Soviet Union had suddenly changed its tune as a result of such a snub, embarking on a new phase of detente or the like.

Were Chancellor Schmidt now to decide to risk visiting President Brezhnev, he could do so from a much better starting point.

Washington has been backed by its major ally on an issue dear to its heart, whereas Moscow has been firmly reminded where Bonn stands.

This can only be to the benefit of talks with the Kremlin, always assuming they are intended to be more than window-dressing.

There can be no jawboning or thinking lightly of someone who acts and speaks in accordance with the view and dictates of his alliance.

Hans-Joachim Nimtz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 24 April 1980)

■ THE BALANCE OF POWER

Fresh Kremlin overtures to Western Europe



The Kremlin is launching a fresh diplomatic campaign in Western Europe. Evidence of this is the invitation to Chancellor Schmidt to visit Moscow in July and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko's visit to Paris late in April.

This marks a change in attitude. In February, for instance, Herr Schmidt was given very short shrift when he wrote to remind Mr Brezhnev of the need to persevere with detente.

Or take the circumstances that accompanied the visit to Moscow by M. Chaban-Delmas, Speaker of the French National Assembly. During his visit Andrei Sakharov, the prominent dissident, was exiled to Gorki.

The chill wind from the East is now blowing much more gently. Soviet diplomats have reverted to their usual practice of seeking ties with Bonn and Paris whenever the dialogue with Washington grinds to a halt.

It only goes to show that developments have conformed to the established pattern. Talks with West Germany and France would undoubtedly have been possible earlier, but the Russians were obviously not then ready.

They first had to digest, in both domestic and foreign policy terms, their invasion of Afghanistan.

Regardless what skirmishes the Soviet Union may yet have to fight in and around Afghanistan, in Moscow's eyes intervention there is over and done with — settled and past history.

Afghanistan is fast declining in interest as a subject of international concern.

The sanctions envisaged by the United States are fast dwindling to a mere boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Morally this may be admirable; politically it carries very little weight.

As far as the United States is concerned Iran holds pride of place over Afghanistan. With typical Anglo-American pragmatism, Washington is dealing with the more important issue first, which is felt to be the threat to the US embassy hostages' lives.

So the Soviet Union is now in a position to concentrate more on its real political target, Europe.

It had already been noted that the Kremlin had gone to great lengths to place as little strain as possible on ties with Western European countries.

Political talks were cancelled and cultural exchanges scaled down, but there was no serious upset in relations. If anything, the opposite was true.

In the economic sector, where the East bloc is keenest to reap the benefits of detente, substantial new deals have been concluded with Western companies, including West German firms.

Moscow's tactics have been particularly obvious in intra-German ties. The recent intensity of relations between Bonn and East Berlin is anything but an oasis of sweetness and light in a desert of East-West tension. It is deliberate and intentional by the East.

In the past Schmidt and Honecker have been unable to forge an intra-German axis of their own; they will continue in future to be dependent on Soviet interests in this respect. At present the Soviet Union is interested in keeping the gateway to the West open.

To judge by Soviet domestic criticism in recent months and by what frank admissions on the part of Soviet allies in Eastern Europe bear out, the stability of East bloc communist regimes is not what it might be.

Commodity output and industrial production are lagging way behind plan targets and prices can no longer be maintained at low levels by means of subsidies.

Further ties with the West are deemed most desirable as a means of relaxing tension a little.

For motives of power politics too Soviet diplomats must remember to keep a foot in the door in the West, and on this point their interests particularly coincide with those of Western European countries.

Initially the Soviet Union is relying on the effect of its sheer weight. As the foremost military power on the Continent it naturally commands a special influence without lifting a finger.

"The question is not whether or not one can trust the Soviet Union," an Eastern European politician once said. "It is simply there and its existence must be borne in mind."

This is even more the case now the Soviet Union has consistently put on specific weight by means of rearmament.

It is in Western Europe's interest to influence the pace of Soviet armament. That is why Helmut Schmidt has come up, in Hamburg and Essen, with his proposal for a temporary embargo on the basing of new missiles on either side of the intra-German demarcation line.

Herr Schmidt evidently takes a dim view of a policy of action and reaction. He would prefer to keep matters moving himself. The target is less important than the way in which it is reached.

This is where the Soviet Union senses an opportunity, and it is amazing how neatly it is complying with an established pattern.

Compare the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 with the invasion of Afghanistan a few months ago and you will see the parallels.

After a period of consolidation following the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia the Soviet Union made advances in the West.

Approaches were made to Bonn (then as now), albeit to a Grand Coalition government, with Soviet ambassador Semyon Tsarapkin visiting Chancellor Kiesinger in Stuttgart for talks.

FDP leaders, who at that time formed a mini-Opposition in the Bonn Bundestag, were given an attentive reception when they visited Moscow in summer 1969. A few months later there was an about-turn in Bonn's Ostpolitik.

Gerhard von Glinski
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 21 April 1980)

Russians step up military presence in Gulf

The geographical coordinates of imminent East-West confrontation are clearly outlined on charts in the map room at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

The danger zone extends from the 40th parallel in the north to the 20th in the south and from 40 degrees longitude in the west to 70 degrees in the east.

So 40.40.20.70 stands for the area in which, in all probability, the future of civilisation and the industrialised world will be decided in a crisis decade.

It extends from Somalia and Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian peninsula and Iraq to the west to Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east, with Iran, the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea in the centre.

The current conflict between Iran and the United States, hesitantly supported by its Japanese and Western European allies, could easily turn into a US-Soviet conflict in the Gulf.

There would be a fully-fledged emergency if, for instance, the Soviet Union were to break a US naval blockade of Iran by sending in a convoy.

This is a crisis scenario that anticipates a serious prospect by 1985 when East and West will enter into direct competition in the Gulf as the demand for oil increases and the supply declines.

It envisages a US naval blockade being challenged by a Soviet convoy of either freighters heading for Iranian ports or tankers setting sail from the Gulf.

At present the Red Fleet maintains a permanent flotilla of about 30 to 35 fighting and supply ships in the Arabian Sea and the northern sector of the Indian Ocean.

They include the aircraft carrier cruiser Kiev, several missile-equipped cruisers and missile destroyers.

The Soviet squadron is anchored off Socotra, an island in the Gulf of Aden, and is based on port facilities in Aden, where a large Russian dry dock was towed after Somalia had served the Red Fleet notice to quit.

Soviet combat planes may before long be based at airfields in western Afghanistan along the border with Iran, a mere 500km to 700km as the crow flies to the Hormuz strait and the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

Backfire long-range combat aircraft can also be transferred at short notice from southern Russia to the trans-Caucasian and trans-Caspian regions of the Soviet Union.

From there, with a range of more than 3,000km, they could easily reach targets in the Gulf area and the Indian Ocean.

The Soviet air force has two airborne divisions comprising about 850 operational combat aircraft permanently stationed in the two southern military regions adjoining the Iranian border.

The number of Soviet combat planes in Afghanistan varies and is not exactly known.

Soviet airfields between the eastern seaboard of the Black Sea and Lake Baikal are sufficient to swiftly handle sub-

Continued on page 4

Schmidt seeks missile moratorium

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Sch[...] has reiterated his proposal for [...] ratorium on the deployment of [...] medium-range missiles by the [...] States and the Soviet Union.

He stressed that his ideas were [...] in every respect on the twofold de[...] reached by Nato in December 197[...]

Going into greater detail than [...] he had first mooted the idea a f[...] previously, Herr Schmidt said he [...] mind 1980 to 1982 for a mora[...] this being the period in which [...] generation of US medium-range [...] would still be under development.

An attempt ought to be made [...] time factor not expressly [...] lated in the Nato resolution but [...] ly expected to be about three yea[...] launch preliminary talks between [...] United States and the Soviet Union.

In Bonn government circles it [...] felt that his proposal might make [...] sier for the Soviet Union to agree [...] gotiate, Moscow having hitherto [...] ably declared that talks on med[...] range missiles could only be held [...] the Nato decision had been cancell[...] shelved.

Bonn wondered whether the Krem[...] might not feel increasingly uneasy [...] all at the prospect of a medium-r[...] missile arms race — and thus inclin[...] negotiate.

Herr Schmidt said in Düsseldorf th[...] Nato's offer to negotiate had been [...] mally conveyed to the Soviet Union [...] the United States twice, most recently [...] April.

The Soviet attitude so far was "[...] acceptable" as he saw it.

Over the three years the United [...] needed before it could deploy a new [...] neration of medium-range missiles [...] Europe the Soviet Union would be [...] to further increase its existing lead [...] the medium-range sector.

It could continue to install a new [...] 20 missile every week. This would [...] an extra 150-odd mobile missiles [...] tween now and 1983.

So the existing supremacy of [...] Soviet Union in this sector would [...] tinue to increase substantially.

So he had made so bold as to out[...] an idea first voiced last autumn.

This idea was that the Soviet Un[...] should deploy no more medium-[...] missiles over the next three years, [...] that the West was unable to do [...] any case.

For a three-year trial period the [...] ployment of medium-range missi[...] could be banned and compliance [...] the terms of a moratorium monitore[...] satellite.

Heinz Murma[...]
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 19 April [...])

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■ IRAN

Sanctions would hit Bonn economy, but less than in the past

An economic boycott of Iran would hurt the German economy, but not as badly as it would have done a few years ago, when Iran was West Germany's main trading partner in the Near and Middle East.

West Germany is one of the main importers of Iranian goods in the EEC.

After the Iranian revolution, West German economic interest in Iran cooled markedly. However, the volume of West German-Iranian trade last year was still DM6.5bn as against DM11bn in 1978. Today there are still more than 350 German firms in Iran. The number of Germans working there is estimated at 1,300 (including their families).

At the height of German-Iranian economic relations two years ago there were more than 14,000 Germans living in Iran.

Leading industrial associations in West Germany now agree that for political reasons the Bonn government will have to impose economic sanctions on Iran. If no point European action is taken, the West German Government could go it alone in accordance with the Export Law.

Paragraph 7 of the Export Law says that trade restrictions can be imposed if the security of the country is threatened.

Paragraph 23 of the law also allows for restrictions on capital movement. Bonn has already applied the Export Law in other cases — for instance the pipeline embargo against the Soviet Union in 1962. There was disagreement

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

about whether previous sanctions had been successful.

A poll has shown that most of the big West German companies operating in Iran are prepared for sactions.

Most German staff of these companies have had their return air ticket in their pockets for weeks. The Munich Siemens company has told its staff that they can themselves decide if and when they wish to return to West Germany.

At the beginning of April, the Bonn Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommended to German firms that the families of their employees and all employees not absolutely needed in the country should be flown back.

Many companies brought part of their staff back in autumn of last year after Hans Joachim Leib, finance director of Berlin pharmaceuticals company Merck, had been shot outside his home by extremists of the Iran underground organisation Forquan.

Leib was clearly the victim of mistaken identity. The Essen Krupp concern has said that its relations with Iran are "normal and smooth."

The Iranian Government has an almost 25 per cent share in the Fried. Krupp Hüttenwerke AG and the Essen Krupp concern since the days of the Shah.

According to Krupp, Iranian members of the supervisory board have taken part in all its meetings since the Iranian revolution.

Two New York banks have attempted to put distraints on the Iranian shares in the Krupp concern. At the end of last year the Essen civil court put provisional distraints on Iranian shares because of alleged debts totalling 157m dollars.

The Iranian Government has appealed against the ruling. The appeal has not yet been heard. Iran also has a more than 25 per cent share in the Oberhausen construction machine company Deutsche Babcock AG.

The Bonn Government says that Iranian direct investments in West Germany at the end of 1979 were DM1.369bn.

West German economic relations with Iran have improved since the complete collapse of the Iranian economy in the first three months of 1979.

The Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs says that the Iranian authorities have repaid what they owe to German firms, though in some cases only after delays.

So far, however, they have ignored German demands for compensation for the controversial Bushir atomic power station project, which was cancelled.

State export guarantees did not need to be applied for. Some months ago, Bonn imposed a moratorium on further major guarantees for big export deals with Iran, the only exceptions being the completion of projects which are at least 80 per cent finished.

Bonn does not rule out the possibility of Iran stopping all payments in the event of a trade boycott or the freeing of its West German capital.

Tehran said some weeks age that it would reply to such measures with an oil boycott. However, the oil weapon would not have the same effect it had in 1973/74 on the industrial countries. Before the revolution, Iran produced 6.5m barrels (a barrel = 159 litres) of crude oil per day. Since then it has lost a lot of ground as a major oil supplier. Iranian production is now estimated at between 2.3 and 2.5 million barrels a day. West Germany gets only 9 to 10 per cent of its oil requirements from Iran and the other European countries have also reduced their dependence on Iranian oil.

The western industrial nations now have, in the International Energy Agency, an organisation which in a crisis can share out petrol among its members and

Parameter on restrictions have been outlined

redirect world oil supplies. Besides, Iran needs a certain amount of the foreign currency its oil earns (in 1979 between 22 and 23bn dollars) to pay for food imports. About a quarter of basic foods come from abroad. The Iranian pharmaceutical and petrochemical industries depend 85 and 67 per cent respectively on foreign imports.

Bonn has already indicated that medicines and food will not be included in any trade boycott. Recently there has been much talk in Tehran of East bloc countries supplying spare parts. Experts of finished products account for only a small fraction of the country's foreign currency earnings.

Günther Olthof
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 22 April 1980)

Remnants of a once-large community of Germans in Tehran sit it out

Only about 1,000 Germans remain in Iran. Most have been repatriated by their companies or else, more lately, have taken the advice of the Bonn Foreign Affairs Ministry and got out.

Now the rump of what was once a community of 15,000 sit it out quietly, prepared for anything.

Most of the Germans still in Iran have lived through the revolution and are not unduly alarmed by the constant rumours.

They are relying on the experience of the past being repeated — even in Iran, things are rarely as bad as they sometimes threaten to be.

The Bonn Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now stringly urged all Germans living in Iran without pressing business reasons for staying to leave the country. The warning has had its effect.

For many in Tehran the familiar grass widow existence is starting again. Their families have returned to Germany, some under protest. Children of school age have now had to change schools three times in a year. In some cases, husbands have obeyed company instructions to return home and left their wives and children in Tehran.

The 43 German teachers at the German school were given the choice between staying or returning home. One teacher returned but the rest agreed with parents and pupils that they should try to keep lessons going if at all possible — at least until 10 May, i.e. until a month before the summer term would normally end.

This would mean school reports could be issued, children could be transferred to the next class and the Abitur — to taken on 12 May — would be saved.

At the moment, there are 750 pupils being taught at the school, 150 German, about 400 German-Iranians and 200 Iranian.

The Goethe Institute in Tehran is also working normally: 960 Iranians are learning German there and its programme of films and exhibitions is going ahead normally.

Iranian interest in university courses and conditions of studying in West Germany has never been as great as it is today.

The Archeological Institute, the third West German cultural institution in Iran, is also working normally. However, some excavation projects cannot be carried out just now because the sites are in Kurdistan and Azerbaidshan, where tension is extreme.

Research into caravanserai and medieval routes is still possible, though. There are no problems about surveying on the sites. German authorites in Tehran have however told four of the institute's staff now in this country not to return to Iran for the time being.

There is also uncertainty in the German embassy, where the staff has been reduced from 41 to 19.

The United Kingdom has reduced its embassy staff to one and the Germans are expecting a further reduction in their strength. The German ambassador was

Hannoversche Allgemeine

recalled to Bonn a week ago to report on the situation.

West German industry, on the other hand, is trying to maintain its presence in Iran. The two main construction projects — a conventional power station and a battery factory — are going ahead.

At the moment directors of German companies are in Tehran discussing intensification of economic relations.

In Tehran it is difficult to understand the nervousness and tension in West Germany. On the spot one notices nothing of the crisis. There is no restriction on movement and no trace of hostility to foreigners.

One sometimes has to go to two or three shops before getting the goods one wants but one can still get more or less everything one needs, despite the American economic sanctions.

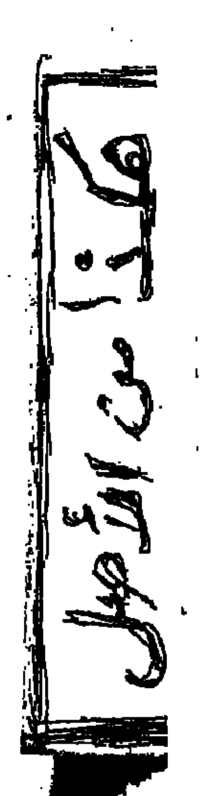
No one knows what will happen if West Germany or the EEC as a whole decide to impose economic sanctions.

But the German community is convinced that if sanctions were imposed, foreigners' personal safety would not be at risk.

There would still be enough time to leave the country, most have already prepared to do so. Airlines are selling more tickets than usual but planes to Europe are still not full.

Ticket holders have booked in case and when they are due to fly postpone their bookings for another few days.

Ulrich Encke
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 23 April 1980)



■ THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

New faces amid casualties as Social Democrats select candidates

General election day is not until 5 October but the Social Democrats have already selected to a man their candidates for the ninth Bonn Bundestag.

The campaign has not yet really started and voters have certainly not lost much sleep on which party they are going to support when the time comes.

But SPD candidates have already met for their second briefing by the party's top brass in the Social Democratic committee room at the Bonn Bundestag.

Parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner gave them their first briefing in Bonn at the beginning of March.

Never before has the SPD gone to such trouble with its candidates for the 496 Bundestag seats, although the reason why candidates have been summoned from all over the country is obvious enough.

Newcomers are to be drilled at first hand for what is sure to prove a tough campaign against the Christian Democrats, led by Herr Franz Josef Strauss.

A further reason that is potentially even more important is not readily admitted by the SPD, but Herr Wehner already has day-to-day post-election routine in mind.

Assuming the coalition of Social and Free Democrats retains power in Bonn, it will quite likely do so by a wafer-thin majority requiring iron discipline in the House.

The SPD parliamentary party leader wants to groom prospective MPs for the party whip and to dash any illusions they may have about freedom of conscience as individual members of the Bundestag.

"You will be called on first and foremost to debate Paragraph 15 of the Finance Act, say, and not the grand designs of policy objectives," he told would-be MPs at the first briefing session.

He was certainly well advised to take this precaution. This time round there will be sweeping changes in the membership of his parliamentary party.

There are currently 214 elected SPD MPs in Bonn (others, for instance, are coopted from West Berlin). More than 50, or roughly a quarter, will be newcomers this October.

Outgoing MPs are either retiring or have been retired. One member who is going into involuntary Bundestag retirement had this critical comment to make:

"Many outgoing members have loyally supported the government since 1966 or 1969 and been unswerving in their loyalty to Chancellor Schmidt.

"The newcomers are different. Their first allegiance is to their constituency party and they have often made their political names by disagreeing with the government's policy line."

He should know, since his successor, or certainly the man who was given preference as his constituency representative, is a so-called left winger.

But his judgement was, understandably, a little harsh. Most outgoing members are undeniably loyal and hard-working backbenchers, but virtually unknown and certainly not names to conjure with.

Most have reached their personal age limit and are retiring of their own free will, having been assured of a comfort-



able pension and a handsome financial handshake.

They include several well-known names, such as those of Friedrich Schäfer, 65, the South German constitutional expert and home affairs specialist, Walter Arendt, 55, the former Labour Minister, and Lauritz Lauritzen, 70, a former Minister of Transport.

Others have chosen to retire from the fray in Bonn and concentrate on work at the European Assembly in Strasbourg and Luxembourg.

They include Katharina Focke of Cologne, the former Minister of Health, and Bruno Friedrich, SPD party leader in Franconia, which comprises a large chunk of Northern Bavaria.

A fair number threw in the towel less willingly, some preferring not to wage a fight against hopeless odds in their consituency, others losing in a vote to what were usually younger candidates for a seat in Bonn.

One such loser has been hard-working tax specialist Hubert Weber, who lost in Cologne North to left-winger Konrad Gilges, a former leader of the Falken, an SPD youth organisation.

A number of key specialists in the parliamentary party have failed to scale the constituency hurdle this time round. They have contributed much to the parliamentary party's success and cohesion and will be sorely missed.

They include lawyer Hermann Dürr, about whom someone in a position to judge is on record as saying: "Without him not a single major legislative reform in the legal sector would have made it through the Bundestag in recent years."

Pensions and welfare specialist Eugen Glombig seems to be out of the running too now he has lost his constituency seat to ecologist Freimut Duve in Hamburg.

The ordinary voter may wonder that the party is so sure who will make the running next October, but he does, after all, only make his choice from among candidates short-listed and selected by the party membership or delegates.

It is they who select the 248 constituency candidates and the names on the SPD's state list, or slate of candidates elected by virtue of proportional representation.

In the SPD the party leadership's influence on the choice of candidates is fairly weak. The party's influence on the conduct of politics in office may have declined but the party machine has jealously guarded its right to select candidates.

Among Social Democrats it is a byword that nothing is more likely to put paid to a would-be candidate's prospects than a recommendation from Bonn.

Selection of constituency candidates usually exerts a powerful influence on the state list, since in the SPD no-one who is not a constituency candidate is reckoned to stand much of a chance of a slate listing.

This, for instance, accounts for the marathon tussle for selection as SPD candidate in Euskirchen, near Cologne, a constituency it would be little short of a miracle for the SPD candidate to win outright.

Dieter Heinz Mahlberg fought and lost Euskirchen for the Social Democrats in 1976 but this time round faced competition from Günter Schlatter, SPD regional leader.

Mahlberg was not entirely out of the running, however, since he was backed by Cologne SPD leader Günter Herterich who was keen to put paid to Schlatter's prospects.

But Schlatter was selected and can be sure of a promising slot in the N... Rhine-Westphalia SPD state list, w... is more than can be said for the l... this behind-the-scenes tussle.

Even Cabinet Ministers have co... grief in the selection procedure... highest-ranking victim is Kurt Ga...le, who holds the dual portfoli... Transport and Posts and Telecom...cations.

Herr Gscheidle has not been n...inated in his constituency, Neuss ... his prospects of being returned t... Bundestag are extremely slender.

The man who brought about h... minent political downfall was, od... ough, Hans Gottfried Bernrath, ... nel manager at the Bundespost.

Egon Franke, head of the rig... "canal workers," or backbench... whose primary loyalty is to the ... machine, should have an easier ti... it after the October general electio...

The number of MPs whose fore... loyalty is to the party leadership is ... to decline. There will be a correspo... increase in the number of MPs ... have opposed government policy ... some time or other.

Always providing that SPD rank... the new Bundestag are not decimat... a political earthquake, leading SPD ... tics of present government policy ... join the party's Bundestag ranks.

They will include Günter Jansen, ... leader in Schleswig-Holstein, Fre... Duve, Hamburg ecologist and p... sher's reader, Gerhart Schröder, lea... the Jungsozialisten, and Norbert W...zorek, economist and ex-husband ... "Red Heidi," as his wife was kno... when she was leader of the Jungsozi...ten.

SPD left-wingers are great talkers ... actions speak louder than words. Th... bark may fairly be said to be worse th... their bite. But they owe a debt of g...tude to the party wing that ... them.

Konrad Gilges, for instance, ... refused to campaign flat out for ... SPD in the forthcoming state ass... elections in North Rhine-Westphalia.

"I am not going to spend my po... on this government's behalf," he w... on record as saying.

Wolfgang Mauersb...
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 13 April 1...)

Continued from page 2

Russians in Gulf

stantial reinforcements and serve as staging posts for an airlift.

Along the 50th north-south parallel the distance between Baku and Gulf targets such as Abadan and Basra is about 1,100km by air.

Tehran, like strife-torn Kurdistan on either side of the Iraq-Iran border, is within easy striking distance of Soviet troops stationed in the trans-Caucasian region.

Soviet domestic transport facilities from the Volga to the Caspian and from the Don to the Black Sea allow heavy equipment to be shipped close to access routes and spurs to the trans-Caucasian rail and road networks.

Twenty-four Red Army divisions are permanently stationed in the three southern military regions of the Soviet Union from which intervention in Iran and Iraq might be launched.

The North Caucasus, trans-Caucasian and Turkestan military regions boast the largest troop concentration outside Europe — more than the troop strength Russia has stationed along its border with China.

Four of these divisions were initially transferred to Afghanistan but have since been replaced or regrouped with troops from other regions. An airborne division is also on active service in Afghanistan.

Divisions in this part of the Soviet Union were, until late autumn last year, on third-degree standby, meaning only about a quarter of their posted strength was actually in being.

Troops deployed in Afghanistan were initially, for a three-month period, reinforced by reservists, most of whom now appear to have been sent home.

For moves on a larger scale, either in Iran or in support of Iraq in a clash with Iran, Moscow would thus either have to undertake a comprehensive partial mobilisation in adjacent military regions or to send in extra troops from Russia.

Since last year there have in any case been reports of troop reinforcements in the southern military regions along the Soviet border, with air- and railborne supplies following in swift succession.

It will be evident in the months ahead whether this is the beginning of a regrouping of Soviet armed forces in the long term (with a view to being pr... ed for forthcoming crises in the Mid... East) or a deployment of strike fo... for an attack on Iran.

Reinforcements of Soviet tr... strength in Afghanistan, to judge by ... latest reports, are probably unrelated ... this wider strategy.

The Soviet Union is nonetheless t... tilting the balance of military powe... the Middle East in its favour by ... and air, whereas the US Navy is ou... its operational area in the region ... lacks supply bases.

North of the Iranian border the Sov... Union is busy establishing a regio... supremacy that should enable it ... launch swift and purposeful land ... airborne attacks from mid-conti... protected by land-based aerial supre...cy.

The Pentagon could not effecti... counteract a Soviet move of this k... without safe land bases. It is certa... not in a position to pre-empt any So... bid by sending in a sizeable US ... contingent of any kind.

US combat aircraft on board air... carriers may be superior in technolo... but this alone is not enough, given th... shorter range.

Lothar Ru...
(Die Zeit, 25 April 1...)

■ DEFENCE

Soldiers living in quarters 'unfit for human habitation'

Some soldiers are living in quarters unfit for human habitation, according to a report presented to the Bundestag. Barracks, guard rooms, canteens and technical areas all came under criticism.

Specific cases included:

One Bundeswehr school where fungus was growing on the walls and ceilings of NCO quarters.

Living quarters with only two urinals for 58 soldiers.

A set of barracks where the smell from a urinal permeated the air.

Bug and rat infestation.

The criticisms were detailed in the 1979 report to the Bundestag by Defence Commissioner Karl Berkhan.

He explained that most soldiers had no cause for complaint about accommodation, but there were "scandalous inadequacies" which he felt obliged to call attention to.

Berkhan seriously doubted whether Defence Minister Apel's promise to renovate 10,000 to 15,000 barrack places was kept or could be kept. In 1979 the Bonn Ministry of Defence and the armed forces administration could not cite lack of funds or depression in the building industry as reasons for not carrying our necessary improvements.

Accommodation was on the whole good and so the cases of inadequate accommodation were all the more deplorable. He called for an immediate programme of action to remove the most glaring inadequacies in the next three years.

Berkhan said that 1,600 captains and lieutenant-captains had little chance of promotion. Despite their qualifications for higher posts they could not be promoted to permanent staff officer rank because of the "unorganic" age structure.

This year Berkhan for the first time failed to give a detailed account of violations of soldiers' basic rights, though he warned that this should not be interpreted as a sign that "unacceptable violations of soldiers' rights had reached a level so low as to be insignificant."

He criticised the fact that some soldiers acted in a manner "not only incompatible with the concept of 'inner leadership' but also violating the personal rights of other soldiers as guaranteed in the constitution."

Berkhan continues to be concerned that soldiers in training are confronted with crudities and obscene language. He said the number of cases in which soldiers' right of petition and complaint had been restricted had increased.

However, the concept of 'inner leadership' had basically been accepted by the soldiers. Berkhan again criticised the distances soldiers had to travel and the time spent visiting their families. Reservists were constantly complaining about the kind of military exercises they had to take part in.

SPD MP Erwin Horn called for the "worst cases" of poor accommodation to be eliminated. Kurt Jung of the FDP called for immediate implementation of improved payments and supplements to soldiers provided for in the budget committee.

Opposition spokesman Weiskirch (CDU) pointed out that the Opposition as well as the Defence Commissioner had called for measures to solve the promotion and deployment problem. He said there were alarming weaknesses in the inner structure of the Bundeswehr.

dpa
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 April 1980)

The man in the middle has to keep everybody satisfied

Bundestag Defence Commissioner Karl Wilhelm Berkhan, who was 65 on 8 April, is not thinking of retiring from politics.

In January he was re-elected Defence Commissioner by 416 out of 454 MP's votes. This was only one vote less than when he was first elected in 1975 — an excellent result.

Berkhan's qualities and career almost predestine him for the post. He has been successfully active in politics for decades, in legislative and executive functions. He was the first MP to report for exercises with the Bundeswehr.

He was in the Defence Committee for a long time and was parliamentary secretary of state in the Bonn Ministry of Defence. He knows the problems of the armed forces from different sides and he understands the problems of the soldiers. As Defence Commissioner, Berkhan is the right man in the right place.

In his position, Berkhan relies heavily on the response of the general public and the trust of the soldiers. One of the dangers of this office is that the holder can be crushed by conflicting interests, so it needs a strong personality such as his.

When Berkhan became Defence Commissioner, there were considerable tensions with the Bundestag. Berkhan has largely eliminated these tensions. He holds consultations with MPs in the Bundeshaus.



Karl Wilhelm Berkhan
(Photo: Sven Simon)

And he has established his full independence of the Ministry of Defence. Tensions between the Ministry and the office of Commissioner are of course inevitable, but Berkhan has taken some of the sting out of them.

The differences with the armed forces have also been reduced. It is true that some officers are not to happy about the way he airs certain problems within the Bundeswehr, but most of them agree that if they did not have a defence commissioner they would have to invent one. The very existence of the institution prevents many abuses.

Berkhan was born on 8 April 1915 in Hamburg. At 14, he joined the Socialist Workers' Youth, completed an apprenticeship and then took an engineering degree. In the war, he fought on the Eastern and Western fronts.

After the war, he taught in vocational schools, was an SPD member of the Hamburg Senate and in 1957 was elected to the Bundestag.

From 1969 to 1957 he was parliamentary secretary of state in the Ministry of Defence. He was elected Defence Commissioner on 19 March 1975 and re-elected on 17 January 1980.

Helmut Berndt
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 April 1980)

General pulls no punches in an analysis of Soviet potential

Bundeswehr Inspector-General Jürgen Brandt rejects the view that Soviet military potential is essentially defensive.

He made this clear in a lecture to the International Clausewitz Forum at Hamburg Military Academy.

His analysis of strategic relations between East and West was no black and white picture, but he clearly dissociated himself from any charitable interpretation of Soviet motives in Afghanistan.

Brandt named no names. He did not need to. Everyone in the audience knew that his criticisms were levelled at SPD floor leader Herbert Wehner and Major-General Gerd Bastian.

Brandt said that the Soviet Union was quite prepared to base its policies on the only power factor at its disposal, namely its huge military potential. This military potential, Brandt stressed, is basically offensive in nature and capacity.

This offensive capacity was the expression of "an excessive need for security in an ideologically hostile environment and the resultant will to carry out a conflict solely on the enemy's territory."

"I hope that I have succeeded in showing that the sometimes shrill tones of the political debate on Soviet armament have nothing to do with the military assessment of the situation," he said.

Brandt firmly rejected the view that the Soviet Union is satisfied with its present territorial power base. He sees an immediate threat to security and an indirect threat to the West's raw materials and oil supplies.

Jürgen Brandt
(Photo: dpa)

In the present system of the balance of power, the direct threat is eliminated, but the indirect threat would require a military and a political answer.

He did not think the Bundeswehr could contribute to the military response as its main function would continue to be to defend this country against an attack from the East.

A credible determination to defend, based not only on the army, and visible fighting capacity were the basis of the defence deterrent. He said: "There is no point, and it is a waste of money, putting a soldier in uniform so that he can say: 'I do not want to shoot.' A soldier must be able to say credibly: 'I can shoot, and if I have to I will.'"

Brandt has given the Bundeswehr, now largely lacking in political leadership, a general direction.

When he became Bundeswehr Inspector-General after Harald Wust's resignation, there were many prejudices against him.

Some described him as a red party general, but his attitude and behaviour soon showed that he was not.

He is sometimes brusque, especially when his interlocutor bores him. People who respect him say that if he were a better listener he would be more popular.

These weaknesses are outweighed by his strengths. He commands respect from superiors and inferiors alike. He has the courage to form and express his own opinion and he does not draw in his horns when he realises he is making life awkward for superiors.

Loyal and convinced of the primacy of politics, he shuns opportunism. He does not try to put his head through the wall but perseveres towards the goals he believes to be right. He is a quietly effective man. He is not afraid of publicity but he does not seek it.

Wolfram v. Raven
(Die Welt, 18 April 1980)

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

Craft chief's view of an energy-aware era



Changes in energy use habits will mainly be reflected in small-scale technology, according to the chief of a craftsmen's organisation.

Speaking at this year's Hanover Fair, Paul Schnitker, said that in terms of trade and crafts this meant that motor mechanics and traders may be hard hit but plumbers, heating and ventilation engineers are likely to benefit.

Herr Schnitker is president of the Central Association of Trades and Crafts.

Another speaker, Heinz Dürr, the new managing director of electrical giant AEG, said his company is working on decentralised closed-circuit energy systems that practically amount to miniature power stations in the home.

He said that by storing process energy generated by, for example, refrigerators or freezers, plus recycling heat from used hot water, energy consumption can be drastically reduced.

The general mood at the fair was one of optimism.

As one leading industrialist put it: "The effect the alarming state of world affairs could have on the economy is so ghastly to contemplate we can hardly picture it — so we prefer to be optimistic."

This view was shared by most exhibitors, who preferred not to think about the possibility of further political tension and chose to concentrate on the momentary state of the economy, which is far from disheartening.

Readiness to invest seems largely unimpaired. It is hard to say what proportion of orders in hand are the result of investment decisions in 1979, which was undeniably a good year for the economy, but by no means all form part of this backlog.

Always assuming there is no serious aggravation of East-West tension and Europe is only marginally associated with US sanctions on Iran, West German economic growth might well, after four months of fine performance, be better than expected by the Bonn government over the year as a whole.

Unemployment could also fall short of the level forecast in the government's annual economic report. But on prices, it is already apparent, the report was too optimistic.

Another point was also apparent at Hanover: the energy crisis does not only act as a brake on economic growth. By encouraging development of alternative energy sources it also boosts demand as far as leading companies in alternative technology are concerned.

West German companies are far from badly placed. A number of both major and medium-sized companies rank among the international leaders in alternative energy development and some are even market leaders.

There can be no doubt that the energy revolution, accompanied by a withdrawal from oil as a provider (as far, that is, as possible) will trigger a realignment of production and service trade structures.

Some sectors will go into a decline and others will go from strength to strength, as is clearly apparent in the craft trades sector.

It seems reasonable to assume that bread-and-butter trades such as these will continue to earn journeymen and master-craftsmen a handsome living.

Herr Dürr said it only needs the incorporation of heat pumps to redirect, as it were, the natural heat cycle from sunlight and water into the home.

The energy revolution does not end in the kitchen either. Motoring will be entirely different in 2000AD from how it is today.

Car designs will change, but so will traffic flow. With the emphasis on energy saving, Herr Dürr said, it was irresponsible for vehicles to have to react to traffic lights; lights must be geared to traffic.

This year's fair got off to a quieter start than last year's and fewer visitors flocked through the turnstiles. But the reasons are not necessarily cyclical.

Many industries only exhibit every other year, so last year's fair cannot be compared with this year's in many respects. Maybe last year's range was more attractive to visitors than this year's.

Besides, the 1980 Hanover Fair could, at the time of writing, still have made up for lost ground in the second week of its fortnight, especially over the weekend.

Office machinery and computer stands and halls are as full to overflowing as ever. Many exhibitors in this sector report substantial business.

Office rationalisation has evidently by no means reached its climax yet. Electronics is continuing to make short shrift of all before it.

With the aid of micro-electronics, which stores thousands of circuits on tiny microchips, equipment is growing smaller and smaller and, in the final analysis, less and less expensive.

A way of widening range of production

Many manufacturers are happy to confirm that micro-electronics and its rationalisation effect not only eliminate jobs; with their assistance new products can be manufactured.

This argument, reiterated by Herr Dürr, is borne out by a stroll round by the fairgrounds, although one may wonder whether the new requirements these new products are designed to stimulate invariably amount to anything meaningful by way of demand.

Vest pocket computerised adding machines on show were not only combined with a stopwatch and featured a 200-year calendar but also played a dozen different tunes either to wake up the owner or bring back pleasant memories.

Adding machines are now a household item, but there is surely no call for one that plays Mendelssohn's Wedding March on one's wedding anniversary. That, surely, is an invention one can cheerfully live without.

But professional stimulators of demand are untiring in their efforts. There are already plastic wristwatches-cum-calculators on the market (they would, of course, be plastic!).

Watches with a built-in radio are under development, while wrist-watches with a built-in TV screen are no longer dismissed as a fanciful figment of someone's warped imagination!

The Japanese are market leaders in products of this kind, and this year they sounded an even more self-confident note.

On approach roads to the fairgrounds they hired enormous billboards to draw attention to themselves. School calculators are now available, made in Japan, for less than DM40, while adding machines that print cost less than DM80 and they have become virtually throw-away items.

Domestic manufacturers will find it extremely difficult to compete or even stay around in this market. It is hardly surprising that West German companies have withdrawn from the fray on account of high costs in some lines.

International competition has grown tougher for German goods in other sectors too for cost reasons. Export orders may be felt to sound promising at present, but this may be due primarily to a possibly temporary nosedive in the deutschemark exchange rate.

German companies are currently able to sell their range at slightly more competitive rates than hitherto on export markets, although importers' profit margins often put paid to this advantage.

The West German inflation rate is lower than in many other countries that are major customers, which is another obvious advantage. But it too may be no more than a temporary respite, and no-one knows how long it will be before the deutschemark regains ground on other currencies.

The dollar has progressed by such leaps and bounds of late that it would take a brave man to forecast what lies ahead and when. In the words of the old adage, forecasts are invariably a tall order, especially when they concern the future.

The GDR certainly has stated in no uncertain terms that a number of major deals with the Federal Republic fell through because more favourable terms were offered by other European countries.

Perhaps it is as well at this point to say a word or two about the visit to Hanover by East Berlin politbureau member and economic affairs specialist Günter Mittag, the highest-ranking GDR leader ever to visit the fair.

After his talks with West German firms over a meagre period of three hours it seemed fairly obvious th appearance was merely intended convenient run-up to his talks Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. the GDR's viewpoint these talks more important.

The Soviet colony at the fair pres ed an unaccustomed picture. In the Soviet exhibitors have often been trely tense and unbending in their with Western businessmen. year they made a point of creating easy-going impression, even on po issues.

Soviet economist unhappy about embargo

Soviet economic expert Yuri Kr made no bones about his views o impending Western embargo on t with Moscow and told a press co ence that he was absolutely "sick parrot" about the continual talk of tegic goods.

At the end of a well patronised p conference the Soviet delegation in visitors to help themselves to a selec of Russian specialities, including vo Please help yourselves, ladies gentlemen, the Soviet spokesman as long as the going is good. A boycott has not yet been imposed!

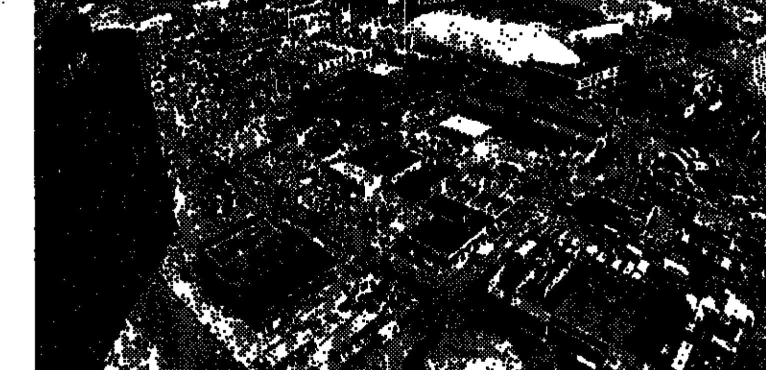
Soviet representatives only sounde serious note in pointing out the disadvantages West Germany would s fer (or so they said) if a serious emb were to be imposed on trade with Soviet Union.

The only obstacle to further e sion of trade, they never tired of re ing, was support for the allegedly turous demands of the Carter adm tration in respect of economic sanc

For obvious reasons this might been given a ready hearing by West German industrialists at Han but Rolf Rodenstock, president of Confederation of Federal Republik dustries, left no doubt in his ad that events in Afghanistan made W tern solidarity indispensable.

Industry, he said, accepted that po cians were entitled to make decisions subjects such as an embargo, but expected the powers that be to sho high degree of responsibility judgement before deciding on measures as an instrument of for policy. *Hansjürgen Wehrman*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 19 Ap



Bird's-eye view of the Hanover Fair this year. (Photo

■ THE HANOVER FAIR

Green spaces between heavy technology

Hanover Fair, the largest industrial market place in the world, is covered with green, the alternative colour. And it is not only the arrival of spring that has brought this touch of green to the spaces between the heavy technology.

Sun and wind. Alternative technologies made their presence strongly felt here. Sun and wind came into the halls and on to the exhibitors' stands. This year's Hanover Fair concentrated on energy.

First and foremost the Bonn Ministry of Technology Stand, No. 17. Its neighbours in the hall baptised it Volker Hauff's greenery shop, and the colour green dominated the entire stand. Rough-hewn wooden benches and tables were there for the weary.

The Research Ministry's latest energy project, a wind power station, heralds the return to the simple life. Air, heated by the sun under a huge-tent-like roof, would, in accordance with the laws of physics, rise into a tower and operate a turbine therein.

The exhibition hall glittered with all kinds of solar roofs, heat pumps lie piled on one another and here too was a giant parabola mirror, the heart of a solar power station. This power station is now under construction in Kuwait and the mirror at the exhibition is only one of 56 that the Arab sheikhdom has bought from a Bremen aerospace company.

The wind power station on the other hand is still experimental. It looks as if the fair itself in many parts and indeed in its own structure has become a field for experiments.

Alternative energy forms, from modest beginnings, have come to the displacing traditional forms of energy there. Atomic energy has played a relatively subordinate role, both in optical terms and in terms of discussions on it.

Coal, as the Coal Day at the fair underlined, has made a big comeback and was more prominent this year than at any fair in the past 20 years.

Even a colour change for black diamonds

Even the black diamonds from the Ruhr and the Saar show green whenever and wherever they can. Electricity producer Steag showed a model of its 747 megawatt coal power station Berkamen A 7 in the middle of green meadows — non-polluting as it is designed to be with its desulphurising and coaling towers.

Hall 20 was dominated by the Brazilians and would have been almost empty without them. It was green in two senses of the word. The hostesses wore jungle-green uniform, the carpet was also green.

Palms, real ones, swayed between the stands. The central stand was an imitation colonial patio and here green was a dominant colour.

More importantly Brazil, a country almost without oil, is relying on plants as an alternative source of energy. In the future, every Brazilian will be able to produce the fuel for his car in his own garden. There's an alternative for you!

By its concession to the Brazilians of giving them an entire hall almost to themselves, the fair organisers have broken their own rule of arranging the fair according to industries and not countries. In other word they are risking an experiment. And this fair will decide whether the move was a success or a flop.

The motley collection of wares presented here is not up to the standard of previous exhibitions and only qualitatively and quantitatively good attendance figures can justify the change.

If the German Fair and Exhibition AG wanted to, it could hold three special national exhibitions here next year. "The Soviets and the Chinese are very keen," they say.

Some years ago, the Soviets tried to present the greatness of the Soviet Union in Hanover as they do at the Leipzig Fair. This year, as in previous years, their exhibits are all over the fair.

This did not, however, prevent them from including things which, according to the West, have no right to be there. For example advertising for the Olympic Games in Moscow. In Hall 16, on the USSR Vneschtorg stand, models of power stations are on display. No atomic, only gas and oil-fuelled power stations. No mention is made of atomic energy, only of the "gas supplies to West Germany up to 2000."

And on the other side of the stand there are coloured photos of sportsmen and a Vneschtorg and saying that the covered stadium in the Olympic centre in Moscow is the biggest in Europe.

The text reads: "The Olympic Games attract the excited interest of millions of people on our planet, because they reflect their unquenchable thirst for achievements, peace and progress."

The fair also reflects world crises. After all, it is not taking place in a vacuum. What worries and gives rise to speculation in industrial circles here is not so much the Olympic boycott as the economic boycott threats.

East bloc trade managers talk optimistically

East bloc trade managers predict that it will not really be so bad and that trade with the Comecon countries and particularly East Germany will not be too seriously affected. Günter Mittag, a prominent member of the East German Politbureau, held talks with leading West German industrialists at the fair. They said he seemed confident and relaxed about future trade developments.

The general line on the Iran problem seems to be: do not dramatise things. Krupp, one quarter owned by the Iranian government, talked of the possible effects of an embargo. Business relations have until recently been quite normal. The two Iranian ministers on the Krupp board have regularly attended meetings. Work is going ahead on a copper refinery in Sar Chesmeh in Iran and Tehran had paid promptly for all deliveries.

The Lower Saxony Minister of Economic Affairs, Frau Birgit Breuel, flitted tirelessly around from one stand to the next, dressed with typical Hamburgian elegance and always with a nice hair-do. She listened very sympathetically to the problems of businessmen and took every possible opportunity to contradict what the government had said or done.

The fair is a welcome opportunity for politicians and industrialists to grab limelight and publicity. Among the prominent figures in Lower Saxon life present were Hinrich Wilhelm Kopf, Alfred Kübel and of course Birgit Breuel.

No other Lower Saxon Minister of Economic Affairs had made such intensive use of the fair as an instrument — for the benefit of both Lower Saxony and herself. *Dieter Tasch*

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1980)



Amphibious truck, the Amphitruck 400, which was on show at the fair. It was designed to unload ships, and can travel at 10 kph and 40 kph respectively in water and on land. (Photo: dpa)

March of the silicon chip revolution

The Hanover Fair underlined how rapidly the microelectronic revolution is advancing into our working and leisure lives.

Microprocessors, tiny silicon chips with about 50,000 transistor functions on a 25sq millimetre surface are no longer merely used in huge computers.

At the New Uses of Microelectronics section of the fair was an "electronic chef" who ensures that roast boiled or grilled meat is done to a turn. All the housewife or man of the house has to do is choose a "fresh meat" or "frozen meat" programme and a microcomputer automatically ensures that the raw meat is transformed into a perfect roast.

The electronic chef even takes the kind and weight of meat into account. Input errors are practically excluded because, according to the manufacturers, the vigilant computer reacts to all false data with a "respectable" warning tone.

Microcomputers in spin driers are equally empathic, knowing exactly how the washing wants to be treated. Controlled by a mini-computer, electronic feelers constantly test the dampness of the washing and report back to the computer. This means that different kinds of textiles can all be dried toegether. And housewives will be able to choose from five different programmes.

Also on show is an electronic ski binding guaranteeing "programmed safety." Microprocessors analyse the skier's skill, style and fitness." One battery lasts for an entire skiing season.

A new hearing aid to be worn inside the ear is only 1 1/2 cubic centimetres.

It consists of microphone, amplifier, battery and receiver. The electronic hearing aid fits to a tee because it is designed from a mould of the inside of the ear.

Microelectronic building elements make it possible to overcome the resistance between skin and electrodes when heart current curves are measured. This makes electrocardiograms more accurate and safer.

Electronic control of heating systems saves energy. Multivalent heating systems consisting of heat pumps and solar energy can be ideally controlled by microprocessors. They can already take the place of seven traditional regulators.

The possibilities of using microprocessors in and on cars are almost unlimited. A mini electronic brain will make the car-thief's job harder, sounding the alarm when anyone fiddles with handles, attempts to turn on the ignition or dismantle the car radio. It even reacts to "unwanted" attempts to take off wheels or even tow away the car.

Every year, 600,000 cars are broken into or stolen in West Germany.

The anti-block system allowing a driver to brake hard and yet maintain his direction and keep control of the steering wheel would be unthinkable without microprocessors.

Microprocessors also enable computer ignition, determining the right moment for ignition and thus saving petrol. Electronic car computers remind the driver to fill the tank, avoid ice, tell him the right motorway exit and warn him to drive correctly.

Microprocessors could play a hugely important part in error diagnosis, as indeed they already are used for this purpose in escalators.

Klaus Peter Friebe of the Berlin Technology Centre described how microprocessors could tell whether a faulty device or system had been delivered, how damage occurred, whether maintenance had been done properly or not.

Friebe said: "The long-term legal implications are tremendous." *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 April 1980)

■ BUSINESS

No signs of recession despite prophecies



Many German businessmen appear to have a schizophrenic view of the future: on one hand they are worried stiff about it; on the other, they are investing in it for all they are worth.

They seem to be commissioning orders and signing contracts hand over fist.

What do they think of the future? They sound gloomy and in many cases are deeply uneasy.

Yet that doesn't stop them from ordering the machinery with which they plan to earn money in the uncertain times ahead.

It certainly didn't do so at the Munich construction machinery trade fair and, by all accounts, business was brisk at this year's Hanover Fair too.

For the past six months or so pundits, especially at Kiel University department of international economics, have been trying to persuade us all that the German economy is on the brink of crisis.

The most we can hope for, they have said, is that the economy will mark time. But in all probability there will be a recession.

There are no signs of one just yet, however. Even in the medium term *there are few grounds for alarm, to* quote Bonn Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff a couple of days before the Hanover Fair opened.

He probably said so not only because talking is part of an Economic Affairs Minister's job but also because even dyed-in-the-wool pessimists are finding it hard to justify their gut feelings at present.

About the only argument they can fairly field is that international trade warfare could be waged, with unforeseeable consequences, or that international political disputes might take an even worse turn.

In view of current interest rates, which make it virtually impossible for anyone to be able to afford to have a house built, the construction industry might well sound most plausible in claiming to face a gloomy future.

Yet contractors ordered so much machinery at the Munich trade fait that manufacturers were delighted. Last year and the year before they also placed orders worth 25 per cent more than the previous year.

In both housebuilding and civil engineering orders in hand will keep contractors busy for another 3.3 months, and in the building trade three months in hand is reckoned to be full capacity.

In January, the latest month for which figures are available, orders totalled a staggering DM4.68bn, or 26 per cent more than the January 1979 figure even after inflation has been taken into account.

Yet spokesmen for the construction industry persist in saying that for the most part they are merely completing outstanding orders and reckon business will tail off this autumn.

"That," Count Lambsdorff sarcastically commented, "is what they were saying this time last year too."

Even so, it is more than likely that the building trade can indeed look back on a more satisfactory year than the year ahead is likely to prove. High interest rates, as currently advocated by the Bundesbank, invariably hit the construction industry first.

The reduction in autobahn construction planned can likewise hardly fail to make its mark, and one company or another may well go to the wall.

All told, however, or so a spokesman for the industry claimed, the labour force will remain fairly stable.

If the construction boom eases, steel will be one of the next industries to feel the pinch, having only tentatively recovered from its last crisis.

But talks of a recovery would sound too euphemistic for companies such as Klöckner or Fried. Krupp Hüttenwerk AG, the Ruhr giant's foundry division.

The steel industry could face even more serious trouble if, as has been forecast for the past two years, economic recession finally descends on the United States. America is a major export market.

Apart from such unpleasant possible prospects the steel industry is currently faring fairly well, at least as well as few would have dared to hope three or four years ago.

It is selling large quantities, albeit at low prices. In the first three months of 1980 orders were 5 per cent up on the first quarter of last year.

But manufacturers are unable to pass on to their customers the higher prices they are having to pay for both waste and one. Some companies are operating at a loss, others are more or less breaking even.

These, then, are the industries that seem at all likely to encounter hard times. Everyone else, including the motor industry, is doing fine.

Record figures once again improved on

Ford and Opel are in slight difficulties, having concentrated on manufacturing 1.6- to two-litre family saloons. So are Porsche, who have had to cut back output of their expensive sports models.

But otherwise, despite alarming forecasts, the demand for new cars has in no way slackened in the first few months of this year.

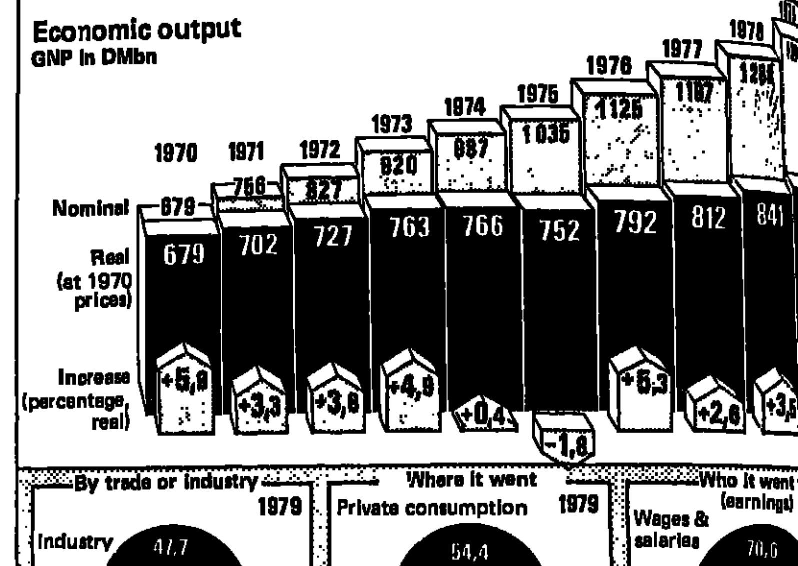
Last year's record figures were improved on, while even the much-lamented progress made by brands imported from Japan has been mainly at the expense of other imported marques.

In January and February, domestic sales of cars manufactured in West Germany were at roughly the same level as in 1979.

Yet the motor industry persists in expecting domestic sales over the year as a whole to decline by about 10 per cent. Realistically, this is viewed less as a slump than as a return to normal.

Sales have been running at record levels for years. The trade has long expected business to return to normal, so it will not be caught unawares.

Forecasts for the motor industry will not be worth the paper they are printed on if further difficulties in oil supplies occur, however.



An oil crisis, accompanied by speed limits, Sunday driving bans or even fuel rationing, would lead to an immediate downturn in demand for new cars.

But eventualities such as this cannot be forecast in advance, so they have no place in any assessment of economic prospects.

Since everyone is talking about slower growth the chemical industry is reluctant to go against the trend. It reckons turnover this year will be only 2 per cent up in real terms (after accounting for inflation, that is).

Two per cent in real terms is not to be sneezed at, though, especially in an industry that is as heavily dependent on oil as is chemicals.

Besides, a mere 2 per cent increase sounds a distinctly conservative estimate after last year's nearly 12 per cent increase in turnover to DM126bn.

Mechanical engineering, the pride and joy of the West German economy, will shine as brightly at the end of the year as it did at the beginning provided nothing unforeseen happens.

Demand is expected to slacken slightly in 1981, but next year Wilfried Guth expects to see the first signs of an economic recovery.

He is board chairman of Deutsche Bank and one of the men most able to assess the outlook for the West German economy. He reckons the economy will cool down a little next autumn, then pick up next year.

Electrical engineering is another showcase industry. It is coming on fine despite expectations that it would fare a little worse than others.

It did indeed take longer to get going, but growth has been sustained longer too. "Our expectations have not been disappointed," say electrical engineering giants Siemens, the largest company in West Germany that is still largely in private hands.

Even radio, TV and what is broadly termed entertainment electronics is expected to manufacture more this year than in 1979, despite bad news and poorer prospects.

The problem was not high interest rates spearheaded by the Bundesbank or higher oil prices charged by the Opec countries but failure by the industry to keep pace with technological developments, especially in Japan.

The current tenor of opinion is a little more encouraging, although manufacturers such as Grundig are quick to point out than an Olympic boycott would be sure to hit sales.

This industry-by-industry allows of two important inferenc respect of economic policy as a w

First, Norbert Walter, the Kiel nomic forecaster who went out limb last autumn (and again weeks ago) in saying there would recession in 1980, seems sure to be proved. It serves him right for st his neck out.

Second, the Bundesbank, with policy of scarce cash and high in rates, need have no fear of harming economy in the foreseeable future.

It is, moreover, a policy endors Finance Minister Hans Matthöfe Economic Affairs Minister C Lambsdorff and even *Deutsche B* board chairman Wilfried Guth.

Herr Guth, who is readier to the point than some of his fel kers, reckons this policy to be ess So it is, and for a twofold reason.

● Prices are rising faster and faster not just because of higher oil bi March the cost of living was n per cent higher than 12 months viously.

If Bonn were to assess inflation monthly basis, as the United States we should find that inflation was it running at 12 per cent.

● To curb conspicuous consum the United States has increased dom interest rates to nearly 20 per cent. result has been that even medium investors are being advised by German banks to buy US bonds equity.

Germany has had to follow suit now running a current account de and needs to bridge the gap by le ing foreign capital.

In the long term this deficit ca be eliminated by exporting mo importing less. So a temporary pol high interest rates is warranted.

It leads to a slowdown in dom demand, obliging many compan export goods they are unable to se the home market.

"What we need," says Manfred L stein, state secretary at the Bonn Fi Ministry with special responsibility monetary and credit policies, "is a st deutschemark."

The painful policy currently pu by the Bundesbank is aimed at just It is just as well the economy is he enough to withstand the pain.

Dieter P

(Die Zeit, 18 April 1

■ RESEARCH

Water under pressure has many industrial applications

DIE ZEIT

Under pressure water is a versatile instrument, as everyone knows. In dishwashers jets of water wash plates, glasses and cutlery. The dental *douche* massages the gums. The water cannon clears protest marchers from the streets.

Under much greater pressure the power of water increases accordingly. At high pressure jets of water can be used to guillotine paper as though it were butter.

Jet cutting, as the process is known, can also be used to cut leather, wood, plastic and even asbestos, and it does so with consummate ease.

There may even be a day when jets of water are used to cut sheet metal according to precision requirements.

They are bundled to cut precisely and pack punch by pistons that exert a pressure of between 3,000 and 4,000 bars as they squeeze the water through nozzles a few tenths of a millimetre in diameter.

A bar, incidentally, is the metric unit of pressure and is equivalent to 1.02 times mean atmospheric pressure at sea level or the pressure at the foot of a pillar of water 10 metres high.

Comparable water pressures might in theory be found at the foot of a pillar of water 30 to 40 kilometres tall, but the ocean bed at its deepest point is a mere 11km deep in the Pacific.

The nozzles must withstand enormous pressure and are made of some of the toughest materials known to man, either diamond or sapphire.

When the water passes through the tiny aperture in these precious stones, pressure is converted into speed. It shoots out at two to three times the speed of sound: 600 to 900 metres per second, which is so fast that the paper it cuts does not even have time to get wet.

One problem is to keep water molecules together in such an extremely thin jet. Normally they would separate and spray after about two centimetres.

But this poser was solved by the fire brigade. Research engineers recalled that the fire service adds chemicals to water from the hydrant to make it travel as far as possible in one direction.

Similar additives are put in the cutting water. They are chain-shaped giant molecules known as polymers that are several times longer than water molecules.

Chains are formed, channel the water molecules and force them to travel in the same direction. With the aid of this fire brigade artifice the length of the cutting jet can be extended to four or five centimetres.

Jet cutting is serious competition for conventional procedures such as mechanical shears, saws and heat cutters; it even rivals laser beams or electron guns.

Cutting with a jet of water has definite advantages. The cutting edge is not overheated. There is no dust. There are no sparks. Dust does not affect workers' lungs. Sparks do not cause factory blazes.

In view of these undeniable advantages water cannons are already in use in a number of industries, albeit only to a modest extent.

For the time being they can only be used for short periods as the pressure would cause too much wear and tear in regular use. There have been occasions on which jet quality has deteriorated in a matter of minutes because even super-resilient sapphire nozzles frayed at the edges.

Professor Wilfried König and staff of Aachen University of Technology hope to solve this and other problems. At the department of process engineering they are also working on improved nozzle designs to cut down wear and tear.

Other research staff at Hanover University, headed by Professor Friedrich Erdmann-Jesnitzer, plan to make jets even more powerful, basing their approach on the old German proverb "constant dripping wears the stone."

For a short time the impact of individual drops creates higher local pressure than an uninterrupted flow of liquid. So the Hanover boffins are trying to chop up a continual jet into a succession of droplets. They hope in this way to be able to cut sheet metal.

No-one yet knows how jet cutting works microscopically. How is the material cut? Is tension created in the material that might render it brittle? Or does the water knock out individual particles?

Why can high-pressure water jets cut fibre-glass sheeting but not panes of glass?

Visitors to Bauma '80, the Munich construction machinery trades fair, were able to see for themselves what water can do. A West German subsidiary of Atlas-Copco, the Swedish company, demonstrated at its stand how two litres of water could smash three tonnes of granite without causing either an explosion or a downpour of rubble.

It is an amazingly simple process that has been hailed as brilliant by the industry. A water cannon aims less than two litres of water through a borehole into the rockface at a speed of 200m to 300m a second.

The resulting pressure of 3,000 bars blasts the granite into smithereens, but unlike when conventional explosives are used the wave of pressure abruptly relaxes when it reaches the rock surface, so no chunks of rock are catapulted through the air.

At the beginning of June, development engineers, manufacturers and users will attend the Fifth International Symposium on Jet-Cutting Technology in Hannover.

It remains to be seen whether they will be able to rewrite the old saying to read "constant dripping wears the steel."

Horst Güntheroth

(Die Zeit, 18 April 1980)

Trial changes in solar heat technique

More and more experts seem to be arriving at the conclusion that solar collectors are outdated. Brown, Boveri & Cie of Mannheim announced last year that they were converting their experimental domestic solar collectors into heat absorbers combined with a heat pump.

Bosch-Junkers now report that they too have converted their tritherm experimental home. Solar collectors on the roof have been replaced by two different absorber systems, one based on copper, the other on steel.

Both say conversion was made necessary by the unsatisfactory performance of solar collectors. In 1977/78 solar collectors on the roof of the tritherm house met only 19 per cent of a well-insulated building's heating requirements.

Energieversorgung Schwaben, the power utility, has reported disappointment with the solar collectors on its solar-powered experimental home in Wangen.

"If you opt for central heating powered by solar collectors," the company's house journal comments, "you have backed the wrong horse. And as for water heating, they still need considerable improvement."

Solar collectors are matt-finish black surfaces that collect heat from sunlight. Water runs through tubes in the black and taps the heat. The absorbent surface is glass-clad to prevent radiation of heat back into the environment.

Absorbers are also sheets mainly dark in colour that are criss-crossed inside with cooler tubes. These tubes are attached to the cold side of a heat pump, so they ensure the sheets are always a few degrees colder than their surroundings.

But because absorber sheet surfaces, unlike those of solar collectors, come into direct contact with the surrounding air they are also able to absorb heat from air and rain.

Even wind that whistles across the surface of absorber sheets thus supplies energy, whereas the glass cladding of solar collectors insulates them from the environment.

Solar collectors can unquestionably produce warm water, and hot water even in good sunlight. But too little heat gets to where it is needed, according to the power utility.

At their experimental home in Wangen a mechanic had to be sent on to the roof daily to ventilate the collectors. The air that had accumulated inside interrupted the heat flow.

Physics explains why. If water is heated in a collector during the daytime it will expand. At night it cools and contracts.

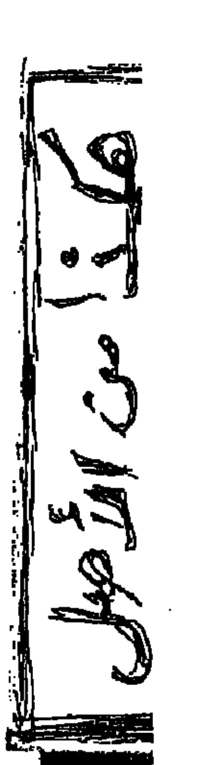
The result is suction towards the collector in the piping system, cutting off the flow of water to the pumps, as it were.

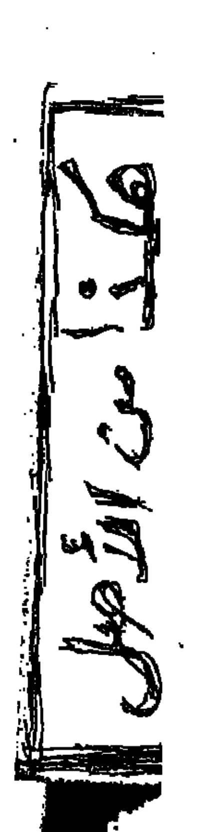
The collector sucks in air via the ventilation that is provided with the intention of letting surplus air out, and next day this air prevents water circulation.

The thrifty Swabians in Wangen were eventually fed up with fiddling about with their collectors and switched the system off. They then heated their boilers with night-rate storage heater electricity, which turned out to be less expensive.

Alfred Böbel, the project manager,

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■ THE ARTS

Collecting doodles – or how to keep waste-paper baskets empty

Frankfurter Rundschau

The City of Frankfurt has bought for its film museum some doodles drawn by Italian film director Fellini while he used the telephone. The drawings cost DM30 each.

Everybody doodles while they talk on the telephone. Most go into the waste paper bin, but some artists keep theirs.

For example, three Swiss artists, Franz Eggenschwiler, Alfonso Hüppl and Dieter Roth, signed them, gave them titles and hung them.

Now they have put them together and the collection is being shown at the Badischer Kunstverein in Karlsruhe.

It was not a gallery owner but the artists themselves who hit on the idea of in an exhibition for the scribblings.

The catalogue revealed that Dieter Roth is now working on television doodles and Hüppi perhaps on radio ones. And so it goes on and on. Art is by no means on its last legs, as some darkly proclaim. The media provide stimuli. The artists have discovered the telephone as medium and drug.

And so we go into the museum, where every telephone artist has his booth. But here, where it should be light, it is dark. No sign tells us who scribbled — sorry, drew — what.

The visitor is meant to guess. And if he cannot find the answer, he will simply have to buy the exclusive catalogue. This is the way the artists wanted it, says Kunstverein director Michael Schwarz in the catalogue.

In the catalogue the tone changes to one of engaging modesty. Franz Eggenschwiler, an artist influenced by Beuys and who has long worked with throw-away products, says of his telephone drawings that they are children, everything else is just close relatives.

Indeed, they are unprepossessing, uncombed children, certainly not poshed up and dressed in their Sunday best, so that it seems arrogant and out of place to exhibit them here. So did he not want to exhibit his "uncombed children?"

Did he allow the other two to persuade him. Eggenschwiler's children are amusing; little ghosts, witches, fabulous animals, bottle-heads, a double penis with one testicle, a homage to Jawelensky and a 1976 telephone drawing on pressure and how to resist it.

Eggenschwiler, who spins out his drawings on envelopes and bits of paper even after he has hung up, is a mediator between the extremes represented by the other two artists Roth and Hüppi.

Hüppi is a sculptor of relief-like geometrical signs. Around his desk, covered with paint stains, are large drawings which in their perfection and tidiness do not immediately strike one as telephone drawings: clearly outlined heads, his wife on a bike, spiral towers, but then thick nests formed from lines, fantastic maps and drawings, such as those in departments of biology or mineralogy.

Each drawing has a phone number on it, and if you dial the number you will get a gallery-owner from Basle, an art professor from Essen at the other end. So these drawings also contain Hüppi's private telephone book.

Things get even more private and intimate when we go on to look at Roth's work. Roth's speciality is turning everything into sausages. In Kassel, he bemused visitors with books bound in sausage skin. His telephone drawings on envelopes and hotel bills are far more uncontrolled, more automatic than those of his colleagues.

He not only draws matchstick men and little houses and labyrinths but also writes down all kinds of things, so that his drawings are a kind of diary. Train departure times, telephone numbers, a shopping list and a work plan consisting of the words handle, garage, sweep, poetry, bedroom door and mouseholes.

Roth also draws while watching TV, sometimes two handed. In the catalogue we read the following profound observation on Dieter Roth: "Drawing while talking on the phone or watching TV means for him, not least, working against his own thoughts and images and those of others and thus producing something else as an answer to his work and the work of others, the synthesis of the other in his own." Perhaps this is the key to this playful side product of talking on the phone.

But it is a pity that these "uncombed children" have to be presented as art.

Christa Spats

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 April 1980)

That plastic shopping bag may be valuable one day

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Three billion plastic shopping bags are used in the Federal Republic of Germany every year. Yet some people think that within 10 years the plastic shopping bag will be an expensive auction piece, a museum exhibit, like an old photograph.

There are already collectors, mostly specialising in certain motifs.

And the Haus Industrieform in Essen is now holding an exhibition of plastic bags.

There had already been a similar exhibition of exclusive plastic bag designs in the New York Cooper Hewitt Museum. And wherever there are exhibitions, there are collectors. There was also a plastic bag swap day for collectors in Essen.

When the plan for an exhibition was suggested to the director of the Essen Culture Committee, he had no idea of the avalanche that would be unleashed.

In a short time, 2,500 different designs were sent in. Of these, 450 are shown in the exhibition.

The designers of plastic bags always remain anonymous. And as a rule they do not even know one another. And so the uniformity of their work is all the more astonishing. The methods they use to persuade the consumer to buy are very similar.

The sex-shops are the most discreet. Their plastic bags are supremely inconspicuous. Those who buy lobster, on the other hand, trumpet this out to the world on their plastic bags, showing a lobster in glossy colours above gothic letters announcing that it comes from a "supplier to the court" and recommending the same company's dinners.

Full of nobility — in dark red and burnished gold, with leather-like handles and expensive-looking material, the plastic bags of male cosmetic firms quietly but intensively exude the fragrance of the great wide world.

Fair and exhibition companies, usually very inventive, are rather unimaginative in their plastic bag designs. And government publicity organisations show the flag but that is about all. The rest they leave to the jeans shops.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 April 1980)

Museums won't toe line on shoe issue

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Two shoe museum are putting boot into one another before German courts. The Offenbach German Shoe Museum objects to the shoe museum in Pirmasens also calling itself German Shoe Museum and has the Zweibrück Supreme Land Court ban it from using it.

The men from Offenbach have announced that they will take the case to the highest administrative court in the country if necessary.

The dispute between the two museums is like the fight between David and Goliath. The Offenbach museum has an annual budget of DM750,000, has scientists and restorers on its staff and is one of the biggest and culturally most interesting in the world.

It has Kaiser Wilhelm's boots, the shoes of the Russian Tsarina Alexandra, the dancing shoes of Austrian Empress Maria Theresa and the simple slippers of Brasilian Emperor Dom Pedro.

Offenbach boasts thousands of different kinds of shoes, from Roman sandals to the latest modern fashion.

The 565 exhibits in the Pirmasens Shoe Museum are modest by comparison. The collection, which has been gathering dust in glass cases for the past years, does at least have a cobbler's workshop.

Three thousand people a year visit the Pirmasens museum: 30,000 a year visit the Offenbach.

The dispute has been raging for years. Offenbach has frequently asked Pirmasens for a name charge because it is worried that antique dealers would send their leather goods to Pirmasens instead.

In 1975, Offenbach suggested Pirmasens rename its museum the Pirmasens Shoe Museum or the Palatinate Shoe Museum.

Pirmasens countered by suggesting The Offenbach/Pirmasens German Shoe Museum, a joint venture with the "technological department" in Pirmasens. And they tried to make the proposal more tempting by inviting Offenbach officials to a slap-up meal — with ... on the menu — in Kaiserslautern.

Offenbach remained intransigent and put the matter in the hands of its lawyers, who took the Pirmasens museum to court, demanding they should drop the description German Shoe Museum from "envelopes, postcards, brochures and similar advertising material."

Pirmasens' lawyers told the court they saw no reason to drop a title of its high publicity value.

Pirmasens' mayor said. "We are the German shoe metropolis, we have the German Shoemaker's School, the ... Fair — and of course also the German Shoe Museum."

The judges at Zweibrück in an ... hearing tried to bring about a compromise between the two sides but both insisted on a ruling. The judges then said that they were not competent to judge the case.

The Offenbach Museum is privately

Continued on page 11

■ FILMS

After 50 years, Fabian is up for rediscovery



Fabian is an unreliable character. In the thicket of the cities, he allows himself the luxury of not being a predator. He is a lounger, a flaneur, a sceptic, without illusions.

"My character is no match for my mind. I heartily regret this, but I have stopped doing anything about it." These words come not from Fabian, but from another character.

Fabian knows that "we are living provisionally; the crisis won't end." Profit leaves him cold. He is interested in women, but not in love. He remains polite. He does not sell himself. He is destroyed.

Erich Kästner subtitled his novel *Fabian*, published in 1931, "the story of a moralist." And it has taken almost 50 years for the novel to be filmed.

The Fabian of the film, directed by Wolf Gremm, wears a trenchcoat and broad-brimmed hats. One can well imagine him in the Berlin of 1980. He would probably be a regular in the Café Einstein, would play pool in Dschungel, his hair would be longer. he would still be wearing his hat and would retain his consciousness of how provisional everything is.

The Fabians of the Schmidt era are called "cool." Maybe they read Wondratschek's poems. Maybe they will rediscover Kästner's Fabian.

The part of Fabian is played by Hans Peter Hallwachs, an actor of laconical intelligence and a strangely lost friendliness.

Thanks largely to him, one never gets the impression that this is a period film. Hallwachs acts the part of Fabian as if he were a contemporary. (Unfortunately, Hallwachs has only had two major film parts to date, in Schlöndorff's *Mord und Totschlag* and Uwe Brande's *halbe-halbe*.)

On one occasion, we see him balancing on the side of the pavement in the streets of Berlin: an actor, a dreamer, near to falling. But he is not moonstruck.

He seems to expect coming catastrophes. Injustice angers him. When his best friend, Labude, played by Hermann Lause, commits suicide, he sits at the window of his room in his parents' house, sobbing.

In the background a cold blue, a frozen rural idyll. Wolff Gremm tells Fabian's story in colours. Like his hero Gremm is very visually-oriented.

Gremm accompanies Fabian on his walks through the streets of Berlin. The film cost DM4m to produce, and, given the expensive sets and costumes of walk-on actors, this shows. However, Gremm never indulges in so much cinematographic luxury as to lose sight of his hero.

Here, after the promising but unsuccessful Brothers and the catastrophic *Death or Freedom*, Gremm at last comes into his own as a director who has mastered his craft as assuredly as Fabian keeps his moral balance in immoral circumstances.

Gremm follows his character's movements with quietly elegant camera work and not with sloppy zooms. This is a question of (filmic) morality. Through his obvious love of the cinema, Gremm expresses his love of Fabian.

Fabian is appalled at the distortion of facts in the newspapers. Gremm is guilty of no sloppiness or distortion in his metier.

On the other hand, Gremm is not yet a maestro. Sometimes his hordes of walk-on actors are as purposefully purposeless as only walk-on actors can be. Some scenes are just that bit too decorative. But the film is good enough for such faults to be overlooked.

In a poorer version (in which almost everything was wrong) one might would not notice these things. Almost everything is right in Gremm's version. He would have been at home in the Hollywood of old. The Americans have already bought *Fabian*.

There have been films on the last years of the Weimar Republic that came over as if the "demonic screen" was being reinvented: chic dances on the volcano's edge, like *Cabaret* and *The Snake's Egg*.

Gremm's Fabian uses the familiar scenes from the queues at the Labour Exchange and brothel, but at the same time it is cooler, distant and artificial: Gremm is as composed as Fabian. Thus he even turns a lack of originality to his advantage. Fabian is a man who keeps out of the fight between the red-shirts and the brown-shirts, avoiding risks whenever possible. He makes only one mistake but it is fatal — he jumps into the water.... "Fabian drowned. I'm afraid he couldn't swim." This will not happen to film-maker Wolf Gremm. But this does not mean he lacks character.

H.C. Blumenberg

(Die Zeit, 18 April 1980)

Oscar for 'The Tin Drum'

The German film 'Die Blechtrommel' ('The Tin Drum') won a Hollywood Oscar last month for being the best foreign production. The director, Volker Schlöndorff, holds the trophy as actress Ann Margret looks on. 'Die Blechtrommel' is based on a Günter Grass novel. (Photo: dpa)

Shoe museums

Continued from page 10

run whereas the Pirmasens Shoe Museum is run by the muncipality, so they would have to take their litigation to the administrative court.

Offenbach were displeased with this and appealed. And if the appeal fails, they will take the case to the administrative court and if necessary to the national administrative court.

Observers believe the dispute could drag on for a long time. As the two museums are not direct competitors, the judges have little opportunity to merge them.

Günter Schenk

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 20 April 1980)

A scene from 'Fabian'. (Photo: United Artists)

Television version of novel in seven episodes

East German director Egon Günther is now directing a seven-part television film of Lion Feuchtwanger's novel *Exil*.

A co-production of West German and French television, it will probably be broadcast in autumn 1981.

Director Günther has already established a reputation here with his versions of *Lotte in Weimar* and *The Sufferings of Young Werther*.

Exil is based on the 785-page novel by Feuchtwanger, who was one of Germany's leading writers before Hitler came to power in 1933. After this, Feuchtwanger had to emigrate and his books were burnt. He went first to France and later to America, where he died in 1958 in Los Angeles.

Exil is part of Feuchtwanger's trilogy, *Der Wartesaal (The Waiting Room)*, the other two novels being *Erfolg (Success)* and *Die Geschwister Oppermann*.

Feuchtwanger wrote *Exil* during his own involuntary emigration "to describe this terrible time of waiting and transition to later generations"

The novel describes the hopes and sufferings of a number of intellectuals who flee to Paris, write and publish their works there — works in which they attack the Nazi regime in Germany.

Günther, who wrote the script together with Robert Müller, says: "I have tried to tell the story in seven interconnected parts, but every part has its own main character. I have stuck to Feuchtwanger's novel but made some structural alterations here and there. This is a method — my method — of breaking the novel up and at the same time remaining true to it.

"You could call it an attempt to make seven short stories out of the novel — with seven central characters. The purpose is to show what emigration meant to individual people. These people left their homes and came to a strange country where they found that not all those around them were friends. Emigration destroyed some. Others it made stronger and more politically aware."

Günther is the first GDR director to be given permission to film in West Germany. After a year's to-and and froing, the GDR Ministry of Culture gave him two years leave.

Günther says: "I was already familiar with *Exil*. Feuchtwanger is read a lot in the *GDR*. It is, if you like, a German subject. I think it is good that the problem of the division of Germany should be discussed. A divided country, a nation split, is a problem. There are no two ways about it!"

(Nordwest Zeitung, 18 April 1980)

■ **OBITUARY**

No compromise in death for Jean-Paul Sartre

Jean-Paul Sartre remained true to himself to the end. For weeks he had been seriously ill with a lung disease but he had given strict instructions for no bulletins on his health to be issued.

He did not want his fellow human beings to follow the stages of his decline. This was consistent both with his great modesty and his philosophical belief that the individual in the crucial situations *in his life is always totally alone.*

Sartre died as he lived — bravely, without illusions.

Sartre more than any other influenced the cultural life of Paris and of Europe since the war. Even late in his life, when *his philosophy of existentialism had* long been pushed aside by other intellectual currents he embodied, by his presence alone, the powerful authority of modern intellectualism.

Whether this authority was arrogantly claimed or justified, everyone had to respect it and come to grips with it. To cope with it, one always needed the very best arguments.

Few of the younger generation can have any conception of how Sartre at the height of his success influenced his contemporaries. Existentialism à la française was the only acceptable paradigm of the age for the young. Marxism and Christianity paled before it, and its influence extended even into the stalinistically pacified East Bloc, where Sartre's works were passed round surreptitiously from hand to hand.

In Paris itself the cafés Sartre frequented became places of pilgrimage. His teachings became so popular that even fashion got in on the act.

Existentialist designs, car bodies and chansons came onto the market. Existentialism, however, never descended to the level of a mere fad.

The great newspaper controversies Sartre conducted at the time with Camus, Rousset, Koestler, Merleau-Ponty *and Gabriel Marcel — were of an extremely high standard* compared with later controversies among structuralists and nouveaux philosophes — and they gripped the French public.

The same applies to Sartre's major work, *Being and Nothingness* published *in 1943. Neither in method nor in its* theses did it disguise the influence of Husserl and Heidegger but in its dramatically extreme formulation of theses it went far beyond them, reflecting with *merciless clarity the appalling reality of* the war, the Resistance and the "épuration" which followed.

In this work, Sartre spoke of man being condemned to absolute freedom, "thrown" into the situation — proclamations which excited many of his contemporaries.

Sartre wrote: "Never were we freer *than during the German Occupation"* and the resistance fighters in particular agreed. They had experienced the terrifying freedom of risking their lives to fight against the Nazi occupiers.

Sartre was not only a penetrating thinker but also an excellent writer and dramatist. His early novels such as *Nausea* are masterpieces of epic psychological analysis, his existential dramas, in particular *The Flies* and *Huis Clos* are very precise and theatrically effective plays which are *still* often acted and as true as ever in these days of terrorism and hostage-taking.

Sartre's *Dirty Hands* was a key work of the age, a cruel parable on the Moscow trials and the practices of communist take-overs of power — a work which earned him the hatred of stalinists and many slanderous criticisms over the years.

Even so, Sartre's attitude to communism and to the Soviet Union was not strictly negative, even at the time of *Dirty Hands.* Sartre came from a grande bourgeoise family and his mother was a cousin of Albert Schweitzer but he soon rejected his class and welcomed the Soviets as its destroyer.

He was fixated on his mother and when she married a shipowner after his *father's death he felt excluded, an "idiot de la famille"* and throughout his life cultivated a spontaneous, largely unreflected dislike of the bourgeois and so was almost predestined for the role of a communist fellow-traveller.

In 1952 Sartre officially joined the so*cialist camp after taking part in the* communist world peace conference in Vienna.

His marriage with the communists was not happy though and did not last long. The uprising of workers in East Berlin on 17 June 1953, the Hungarian *revolution of 1956, the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact states in* 1968 — all these events found Sartre torn between conflicting loyalties.

His public statements on them vacillated between cutting rejection and half-hearted approval — and did his intellec*tual prestige no good at all.*

Sartre's relations with the May generation, the undogmatic left, the left which sympathised with individual terrorism and the freedom movements in the Third World were also far from happy.

In his second major philosophical work, the *Critique of Dialectical Reason,* (1960), Sartre attempted moderately to existentialise the dogmatic Marxism of the East and to create space within it for anarchist tactics. For this he received little thanks from any side. The same applied to his support for Fidel Castro, Algeria and Frantz Fanon.

When, in 1968, he wanted to speak to *the students in the liberated Pantheon* theatre he was ridiculed as a greybeard and booed. These young revolutionaries wanted nothing more to do with Jean Paul Sartre and his inconsistent existentialism.

His intellectual decline began. The man who had written lucid analyses of anti-semitism now courted the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and, together with his lifelong companion, Simone de



Jean-Paul Sartre

(Photo: Sven Si...

Beauvoir, sold silly terrorist tracts ... streets of Paris.

His spectacular visit to Andreas [Baa]der in Stammheim prison was mer[e] shameful farce. Basically, Sartre hi[mself] had little to do with the whole ex... He was a mere propaganda tool i[n the] hands of clever strategists of t[he] whose sole aim was to present W[est] Germany as fascist to foreign opini[on].

But fortunately this was not the e[nd]. *In recent years, Sartre had begun* [to] revise his ideas and to seek a... wholly new ideas. The commu[nist] crimes in Vietnam, Cambodia and A[fg]hanistan he condemned passionately... even hesitating to join hands with [his] old sparring partner Raymond Aron [in] protest. In his talks with Simone [de] Beauvoir, Sartre, now almost blind, ke[pt] on insisting that they had failed... would have to draw the conclusion... this failure.

Unfortunately, it is now too la[te for] this. But this is not the only reason ... it is impossible to draw a final [line] under Sartre's life work.

Sartre's monumental, unfinished ... on Flaubert deserves to be better kn[own] than it is. The ideas first outlined [in] *Being and Nothingness* need to [be] thought further and developed.

And so our farewell is only to [the] private individual Jean-Paul Ch... Aymard Sartre who in his gene[rosity], modesty and respectful love for [his] mother was and remained to the la[st a] true French citizen and bourgeois.

Günter Ze...

(Die Welt, 17 April ...)

Continued from page 9

costed the operation and worked out that per square metre of collector surface area the maximum power that could normally be expected in the course of a year was 500 kilowatt-hours, not the 1,600 or so that manufacturers' representatives frequently claim for them.

Assuming an active life of 10 years, each square metre of collector surface *costs DM160 per annum. But 500 kilo*watts of night-rate electric power cost a mere DM37.50.

His estimates for absorbers are much more encouraging. For each kilowatt-hour received by the heat pump more than three extra kilowatts can be generated. In winter 1978/79 solar heat fully heated the Wangen house for 46 days.

It did so using heat stored by the absorber and retrieved from a wet soil storage area. Since situations in which the absorbers might be expected to generate no heat at all in winter are well-nigh inconceivable over any length of time this means that the absorber can to all intents and purposes fully heat the experimental home.

Walter Baier

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 April 1980)

■ **MEDICINE**

Moral and mental effort needed to stay healthy, congress is told

Health education is about risk factors and the strengthening of all the body's forces which combat these factors.

However, as the risk factors, such as *smoking,* high blood pressure, high blood fat levels, overweight, diabetes, gout and lack of exercise, depend largely on our behaviour and habits, health education must aim to change this behaviour.

At a recent international congress of doctors in Davos, Switzerland, Professor Hans Schäfer of Heidelberg analysed some of the difficulties doctors face in trying *to change their patients'* behaviour.

One of the great achievements of medicine in the fifties was to analyse and the risk factors responsible for degenerative heart diseases. But it was not until quite recently that research started to be done into where these risk factors come from and how they can be eliminated.

We know today that an interaction between genetic factors and social envi*ronment can increase the risks.*

Schäfer listed four ways in which social environment could affect the individual: changes in environment caused by technology; habits and customs affecting behaviour, *e.g. bad eating habits,* drinking, smoking, exercise or lack of it, consumption; psycho-social emotions; influence of education and experiences in early childhood on the personality.

Arteriosclerosis, which leads to heart attacks, infarcts, kidney failure and damage to the arterial vessels in the legs, is a chronic disease. The concept of time is thus introduced into research on the causes of disease.

Eating, drinking, smoking, lack of exercise, abuse of drugs, *hectic activity,* ambition, envy, fear and despair have been proved by epidemiologists to be causes of diseases.

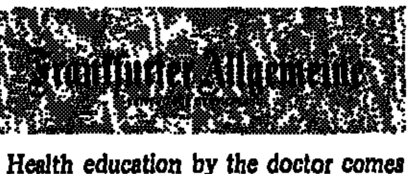
Many of these modes of behaviour are *combined with gratification of the* pleasure principle and can therefore only be replaced by other, pleasure-oriented but not unhealthy modes of behaviour. They often stem from an addiction: to drink, eating or cigarettes; an addiction is, always, however, characterised by the fact that it leads to withdrawal symptoms which make a change in the addict's behaviour difficult if not impossible.

This is why merely pointing out that behaviour is harmful is rarely enough to *make the addict change.*

Health centres hindered by lack of cash

What is needed is preventive methods which take the psychosomatic side of the problem into account, replacing old *motivations with new.*

However, health centres with their low budgets are hardly in a position to do this. All they do is inform and combat the consequences of wrong behaviour. The damage caused by false concepts in Western education al methods cannot be combated so easily. Here, Schäfer is thinking for example of dyslexia or inability to add as a result of modern maths or the aggressive attitude of children brought up by anti-authoritarian methods.



Health education by the doctor comes too late if it does not start with the parents themselves, urging them to bring up their children lovingly and sympathetically but also consistently.

Incorrect health behaviour can begin in the first weeks of a baby's life in the *mother-child relationship. And the influence of the father in early years, often* underestimated, should not be ignored.

The family doctor should already be giving parents advice on health education at this stage, but often they do not have the time or the proper training. *Moreover, there are no fully worked-out* strategic concepts for encouraging correct behaviour.

High-risk, consumption-oriented behaviour will have to be replaced by low-risk behaviour; but this resupposes the capacity for the sublimation of joy in life; this in turn requires the capacity for sensuous sublimation and a higher educational level and indeed a different society from the one we are now living in.

But it is not just a matter of reducing risk factors. Schäfer attaches particular importance to new psychological attitudes to the world. Fear can be overcome by creating trust and composure. Sport and walking, relaxation exercises including meditation, the pursuit of artistic and creative *interests and creative* powers, intact family life, pleasure in company without pressure to consume — all these things could be health factors which could cancel out risk factors to achieve this, excessive strains on the psyche and the metabolism would have to be avoided and a balancing out of human activity striven for.

Excessive burdening of the psyche with an ill-making effect is fear: fear of slipping down the social ladder, fear of *one's boss, but also fear of one's spouse.*

Success is a social prestige factor, often only to be achieved by ambition. In our uncertain world full of pressures to perform fear and ambition often go hand in hand.

Both have a negative effect on health *via the hormones of the adrenal cortex.* In a society in which only performance and not human qualities count, the solidarity which normally guarantees human existence in society breaks down. But where character no longer counts, the protective factors which give us security and prevent one-sidedness are lacking.

Schäfer does not describe performance *per se* or work as an ill-making factor. What he objects to is work full of hectic activity and ambition and with no other sense *to it than that of earning money.* This lack of purpose cannot be overcome without the resuscitation of old religious values.

The religious concepts of virtue and sin correspond to the objects of health education: all the risk factors contain elements of "*sinful* behaviour." The health factors contain elements of virtues. If fear is one of the most important risk factors, then confidence is the best health factor.

Christian confidence grows from faith. This could be an important field of activity — a fact which, in Schäfer's view, the churches are not yet sufficiently aware of.

Health education must therefore be harmonised with moral demands. The concept of ascetiosism must be given its original sense of practice of the correct *forms of behaviour. This can only how*ever be done outside everyday life, especially during reconvalescence, where the behaviour-determining group is of particular importance. Here, too, new *concepts are needed.*

Polls among patients on cures have shown that six months after the cure hardly any of them continue the good practices they learnt on the cure. Correct health behaviour must be presented as a challenge to the moral person. It must *be regarded as modern and clever* and there must be social prestige attached to it.

In the health education sphere, the traditional widowm of mankind has its relevance even in our enlightened age — whether this wisdom is formulated in medical or in religious terms.

Health education too must realise that the justifiability of a metaphysical attitude today more than ever stands behind all positivism.

Wolfgang Cyran

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 April 1980)

Link between protein and learning ability

Nobel-prize winner Roger Guillemin once described the brain as the biggest of hormone glands — and he was *not far wide of the mark. But of course* one must not compare the brain with the thyroid gland for example.

The hormones produced in the thyroid gland go through the body and have their effects far from their "birthplace." In the brain everything is different, far more subtle.

In recent years, scientists have discovered a number of proteins in the central nervous system, known as neuropeptides. Their chemical composition is *quite simple. They are hormonal and* thus, even in small amounts, have a major effect on their place of origin. They directly affect the nerve tracts. Wherever two nerve cells meet, the *excitement, the information, must* be transferred from one fibre to another.

And at this nerve intersection point a microscopically small split is formed which the neuropeptides i.e. the hormones of the nerve system, have to jump over.

Neuropeptides are therefore extremely important for the passing on of information. They can, as we now know, inhibit or change the original stimulus and to a certain extent can even alter the *information. This is a brief overview* of the function of neuropeptides in the human organism.

When we consider that the brain is the basis of our behaviour and of our in*tellectual life the importance of research* into the brain becomes apparent. Precise knowledge of the substances and their biochemical mechanism is essential for the influencing of intellectual and psychological *processes — though this is all* very much in the future.

Experiments have shown that the neuropeptide vasopressin can influence learning capacity, though scientists are still far from being able to put this knowledge into practice.

There is still no pill which can help *lazy pupils to get good marks. The ex*periments have to date only been done on rats.

A recent congress of internal medicine specialists in Wiesbaden gave a fascinating insight into an area of medicine which has become increasingly important in recent years.

Professor A. Herz of Munich described substances produced in the body which have the effect of opiates and are called encephaline and endorphine. The*se neuropeptides (consisting of only a* few amone-acids) are mainly to be found in the pituitary gland (hypophysis). They heighten the pain threshold and help us understand the effect of biochemical influences on behaviour and consciousness and the problem of addiction.

According to Professor E.F.Pfeiffer, of Ulm, they could also be connected with schizophrenia and other psychic disorders. However, the lectures on this particular area proved that scientists and doctors *are still groping in the dark* here.

Nonetheless, we already know a great deal about neuropeptides and their clinical importance. Professor K. Seige, of *Halle, spoke of swellings of the pituitary* glands. In general they produce an excess of growth hormones which can lead to serious disorders of the inner organs.

Overproduction leads to rapid and excessive growth in adolescence. Professor Seige stressed that even the smallest swellings of the pituitary glands can today be removed by microsurgery. In some cases, drugs can also stop the process.

Prolactin is the most recently discovered hormone of the pituitary gland. When it is overproduced, it leads to the maturation of the ovum does not occur and the woman has her period without ovulation.

Professor K. von Werder, of Munich, explained that in some cases women did not even have periods; in some patients, there was even secretion of milk from the breasts.

This disease is much rarer among men but when it does occur it leads to a loss of potency and libido. This disorder is so frequent that it is one of the things doctors first have to look for *when patients come to them complain*ing of sterility or lack of potency.

In most cases, the disorder in the production of the neuropeptide prolactin can be stopped by administering drugs to the mother after the birth of her child.

In a special lecture, Professor E. Nieschlag, of Münster, discussed the problem of lack of pituitary gland hormones which stimulate male gonads. Using modern methods, doctors can find out whether male sterility can be combated by means of hormones.

Great care must, however, be taken in this form of treatment because if too many hormones are administered the *pendulum can swing right in the* ther direction.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1980)

■ MODERN LIVING

Reinforced pockets for fruit-machine expert

Diethard Wendlandt is the self-styled king of Germany's one-armed bandits, or Monarch, as he would probably prefer to be known in memory of a particularly lucrative brand of fruit machine.

When he puts in an appearance at snack bars, pubs and amusement arcades landlords and fruit machine operators shake in their shoes and amateur bandit players grow green with envy.

Wendlandt is a friendly, unassuming Cologne man but once he has sized up a one-armed bandit it is a fight to the last deutschemark and he invariably empties the machine.

Many has been the time when a landlord (who usually has a half-share in the fruit machine's earnings) has pulled the machine's plug from its socket and, spluttering with rage, given Wendlandt the order of the boot.

Wendlandt is a professional fruit machine player, one of the top half dozen in the country. He is the only one who has done nothing else for a living for the past three years.

It took him 10 years to reach his proficiency. He spent virtually all his spare time putting money in the slot of one one-armed bandit after another. He reckons he spent about DM20,000 in training, as it were.

But then he finally made the grade, calling himself the Monarch, after the first brand of machine he succeeded in outwitting.

He has since earned on average DM1,000 a day, or about DM20,000 a month — tax-free. What is more, the money is earned perfectly legally.

Wendlandt does not need to fiddle. He has no need of files or magnets. He has never studied the electronics of fruit machines but he can read them like a book and it is only a matter of time before he hits the jackpot.

Mint and Supermint are the brands of fruit machine he currently prefers, and although they are replaced at regular intervals there are still plenty of these two around.

He can tell from the sound the money makes when he puts it into the slot how much silver he can expect to clean out of the machine. A full fruit machine usually has DM200 to DM400 waiting to be won.

It doesn't take him long. With the certainty of a sleepwalker he presses the buttons so as to set up three identical symbols in a row and win a series of high-value games.

But Wendlandt does not make a point of extracting every last deutschemark. He just makes sure he has won the five- and two-deutschemark coins, leaving the marks and pfennigs to look after themselves.

He wears tailor-made suits with reinforced pockets to hold the silver, and once he has made a killing he quietly leaves, much to the chagrin of landlords and other players.

"When one man wins, others are invariably envious," Wendlandt explains from bitter experience. "And that spells trouble." He is often told never to come again and frequently attacked by other players.

So he reckons a psychological approach is absolutely essential. "You have to sort people out and recognise when it is best to call it a day."

The most important point of all, of course, is that he cannot afford to be recognised as a bandit king. He must look like thousands of other clerical workers from the office across the road.

He must look as though he has just slipped across to the bar, restaurant or snack bar for a quick beer and maybe a hot sausage and a plate of potato salad during his lunch break or after work.

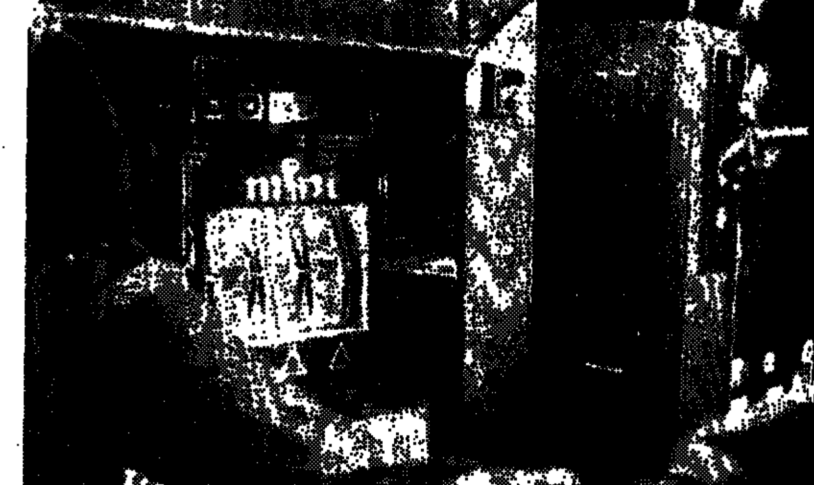
As if by chance, he will feed a little small change to the slot machine and absent-mindedly try his luck. His incognito is obviously vital.

He drives a lemon yellow Mercedes 350 SE from one end of the country to another as he goes the rounds of Germany's Mints and Supermints from his home base in Cologne.

But he always parks a few blocks away to be on the safe side, and he flirts with the waitresses, chats with other guests and does his best to appear utterly harmless.

After a drink and a bite to eat he strolls over to the fruit machine and often contrives to lose his first few games so as not to give rise to untoward suspicions.

He always keeps an eye on the landlord and the other guests in the glass of the fruit machine, cracks the odd joke about his run of good luck ("What a coincidence!") and pacifies everyone by ordering a round of drinks for everyone.



Oranges and lemons: self-styled fruit-machine 'king' at work. (Photo: Filmverlag der A...)

Wendlandt is disgusted with landlords and machine operators who rig one-armed bandits to make it impossible to play them as a game of skill. He has sued several for damages.

Nowadays he is a small-scale businessman employing scouts to scour the country in search of suitable fruit machines so he can plan ahead. He pays his scouts DM100 a day.

He himself is always on the move, using a timetable designed to enable him to make best use of every promising one-armed bandit the country has to offer.

In the evening, after an eight-hour day in smoke-filled bars and amusement arcades, he counts his earnings. Back in an impersonal and often uncomfortable room in a provincial hotel he ... silver in the paper wrappers suppli... the banks.

The next morning, before starting for work, he turns in his silver and changes it for notes.

But fruit machines that retain a p... cise rhythm are few and far betw... much to the dismay of the Mon... His favourite Mint machines are ... being replaced by computerised ... against which he stands little or ... chance.

This is doubtless one of the rea... why he decided to abandon his ... to and appear in public. For a while ... least he is a popular guest on radio ... TV programmes and extensively ... ed in the media.

Monika Mil...

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 13 April ...)

Now it's charm school for the tax man

At Herrsching, Bavaria, on the shores of Ammersee Lake, inland revenue officers are given courses in courteous behaviour towards taxpayers at the civil service training college.

Scenes like this are regularly enacted: A typical taxman sits at his desk, uncouth, phlegmatic and annoyed at each and every taxpayer who comes in with a query when he is preparing for his breakfast break.

The taxpayer is equally true to form, nervous, helpless when it comes to tax matters and over-courteous towards the man on whom his fiscal well-being depends.

He takes a seat, more out of absence of mind than by deliberate intent, only to be chilled by a blast of ill-humour on the taxman's part. "Did anyone say anything about sitting down?" he is asked.

He jumps up like a scalded cock, half-bows down to the seated government official and tries to resume a stilted conversation.

It is all part of a course in courtesy towards the general public at the Bavarian civil service college in Herrsching on Lake Ammersee.

Courses are run with more in mind than an aside to the effect that one really must remember that in practice members of the public are just as sensitive as the overworked taxman himself.

They are a regular feature on the curriculum and a compulsory subject for all trainees. The course lasts 20 to 24 lessons, or the same time as is allocated to such an obvious "must" as training in explaining corporation tax to the taxpaying public.

Play-acting is an enjoyable part of the course. Trainees take turns at playing taxman and taxpayer. It is almost like Cops and Robbers. They act out their parts impromptu.

This is just what the instructor wants, since trainees are forced to work out for themselves what might be said and what they would prefer to hear if they themselves were at the receiving end.

As a rule they are never short of ideas as to how a grumpy civil servant will behave. All their lives they have been bombarded with tales of civil service incivility.

So what they enact is the generally held view of what happens when the average citizen consults the civil service for advice. The rest of the class look on and afterwards discusses the dialogue.

"This is a part of the course students really enjoy," the lecturer says. But there are other games that are more strenuous and mentally exacting.

In Pro and Contra, for instance, one student outlines an argument to another. The other must then decide how to present the counter-argument. Should he get straight to the point?

This is what civil servants are supposed to do, and how well aware we all are of how disconcerting this can be!

The "other" student is first required to restate the first student's argument, not verbatim but in as many words. Try it. It is surprisingly difficult.

Trainees begin to realise how difficult it is going to be to listen to what a taxpayer has to say and even to understand what he means, let alone to explain the fiscal position.

The counter-argument is easy meat in comparison. The civil servant has ... conversant with it for years, can ... in his sleep, whereas the taxpa... going to find it correspondingly diff... to grasp, let alone to stomach.

It ought to be a real pleasure to ... spond with a taxman who has been ... course at Herrsching (always prov... he has not relapsed into red tape).

In tax matters deadlines have often ... be set, and the law stipulates that ... must be appropriate and reasonable ... both sides.

If, for one reason or another, the ... office is obliged to keep clients wa... for longer than might seem reaso... the least it can do is write to the ... payer explaining the delay and s... when a decision is likely to be taken.

The lecturer sounds a note of ... he says: "I reckon it is disgraceful ... to hand someone a form." Surely, ... sons, there is a basic human ... first state the case on a sheet of ... of paper before, as it were, making ... copy.

The aim of the course is to enable ... trainee taxman to gain an insight ... the mind of the poorest of the poo... taxpayer. Course organisers are ind... at a write-up headlined Civil Ser... Taught To Give Service With A Smi...

There is more to it than a ... What use is a smile alone? It might ... just make the man in from the ... smell a rat, as one trainee aptly put ... an impromptu taxman and tax... game.

His taxman seemed unusually frie... and greeted him with a smile. "Wh... up with you?" he asked. "You ar... friendly. Has something happened?"

Roswin Finkenz...

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 April ...)

■ SPORT

Boycott dims winter dreams of a summer in Moscow

Middle-distance runner Thomas Wessinghage was training at the Mainz University Sports Club when he heard the news that the Government has decided to support the Olympic boycott.

This means that his winter training schedule of about 18 hours and 140 km a week will probably have been wasted.

Wessinghage is one of the world's best runners over both 1,500m and 5,000m. Which distance did he have in mind? The 5,000m. "Over 5,000m I can better adopt a wait-and-see approach, and biding my time is more my style."

Was it not all now might-have-been? "Yes, I dare say so," says Wessinghage quietly.

The odds were now seven-to-three against him going to Moscow, he concluded, yet five minutes later he was explaining that the 5,000m would be run on the fifth day before the end of the Olympics, which was why he could not enter for the 1,500m too.

Five minutes later still it was clear that the 1980 Olympics were simply part and parcel of the plan he had worked out for his life.

"I need Moscow," he explained. "Otherwise there will be a black spot in my career." Jimmy Carter can hardly have realised that when he decided in favour of an Olympic boycott.

You need to spend a few hours chatting with athletes like Thomas Wessinghage and his wife Ellen, who keeps a careful eye on him and is herself one of the country's best runners, to appreciate that the Olympic boycott will bring the world crashing down around them.

The noise of the crash is none the quieter for the athletes affected being thinking individuals and not just track specialists who can see no further than the outside lane of the cinder track.

Wessinghage, and he is no exception, has devoted a great deal of thought to political necessities and the make-believe world of the Olympic Games. He agrees that what the Russians are doing is wrong.

But he has not spent 10 years of his life perfecting his sporting prowess to the greater glory of society and virtually gearing his life to sport merely to be told by Chancellor Schmidt there are more important things in life.

For him there aren't, or certainly haven't been since he was spotted as an above-average schoolboy at the national youth championships a dozen years or so ago.

He went on to pass university entrance exams and study medicine. He had few difficulties in reconciling the conflicting demands of sport and his degree course, doubtless because he set about both with iron, self-imposed discipline.

But he always had an end in view that was to make it all worthwhile. "I have grown up with the Olympics in mind," he says. "I have always thought in terms of the four years between one Games and the next."

When one was over, preparations began for the next. That too was what sports officials expected of their squad, and Wessinghage soon emerged as a model of propriety from their point of view.

Who could blame him if he were now to feel it had all been wasted time and life owed him another chance?

True, he has broken records, run many great races, won European and World Cup medals, European indoor championships and, of course, national championship titles.

But all this doesn't really count. "If anyone asks me what my Olympic record has been I shall have to say zero, and that really upsets me."

The 1972 Munich Games did not upset him particularly. He was 20 and a greenhorn. No-one was expecting him to win a medal and he had no such expectations himself either.

In his first heat he ran faster than he had ever done before and was hardly surprised when his feet could hardly carry him in the next heat.

But at Montreal four years and thousands of kilometres later it was another story. He was highly fancied as a medal hope and reached the intermediate heats without difficulty. There should have been none in reaching the final either.

But he had probably thought too hard about the Montreal final, he now says. He was probably saving his strength for the final, but the upshot was that he was a few hundredths of a second too slow to qualify for the final.

He was naturally annoyed with himself but once the initial anger had subsided he realised he could now start preparing for the next Olympics.

The final comment on the Olympic scoreboard at Montreal had, after all, been Au Revoir in Moscow. That was the answer, and he was still young enough to do just that.

What, in comparison with his Olympic ambitions, did a sabbatical semester mean? His fellow-students at medical college were nearer to qualifying but he stood a chance of going down in the annals of sporting history.

Moscow was his last chance but his prospects looked ever brighter when, in 1979 at the age of 27, he suddenly emerged in glorious form over long distances as well as his medium-distance standby.

Letter brings the first doubts

First doubts as to whether he would be given the opportunity arose over the New Year when he received a letter from the president of the amateur athletics association asking him to carry on as if nothing had happened.

So obviously more had happened than met the eye, and it was not long before a second letter came in which runners were requested to keep on running as though Olympic participation were assured.

He hardly needed telling. He was accustomed to running and it would hardly have made sense to slow down. "In training it made no difference to me in any case."

But from then on an Olympic boycott was an ever-present possibility with which he was continually concerned. He signed protest notes penned by enraged athletes determined to go to Moscow whatever happened.

Happier days: Thomas Wessinghage raises his hand in salute as he wins the 1,500 metres at the World Cup meeting in Montreal last year. (Photo: dpa)

He also attended a public meeting in Pirmasens at which he and his fellow-athletes on the rostrum were agreed a boycott was pointless.

But members of the audience said they would do better to help the Americans. Pirmasens, he learnt, was an area heavily reliant on the customs of GIs stationed there.

From then on there were almost daily rumours, some good, some bad. The sprint coach claimed to have been told by a high-ranking official that Bonn had given the National Olympic Committee a free hand, for instance.

But the good news seldom survived the next news bulletin, and although Wessinghage knew the politicians' arguments off by heart and appreciated some of them, on balance it just didn't make sense.

True, the state could fairly demand a sacrifice from top-flight athletes who were lent financial support of one kind or another, but what about everyone else?

"Why do they only ask us to show moral outrage and solidarity with Afghanistan? Why should we sacrifice what we live and work for when Klöckner are going ahead and building an aluminium foundry in the Soviet Union?"

Was he prepared to allow the Russians to misuse for propaganda purposes the fact that he and other athletes were to take part? They couldn't, he said, and if necessary he would gladly make some kind of demonstration at the victory ceremony.

Hitler had been unable to misuse the 1936 Berlin Olympics for his racist designs. German athletes who performed badly at Berlin were mentioned by name in his cigarette card history of the Games.

"Harbig, the young German champion, ran round the track as though he were suffering from cramp," it had said. He had read this comment for himself.

At times he has to laugh when he marshals his arguments and explains, for instance, that it would be madness to jeopardise detente by staging a boycott.

"I am an egoist first and foremost," he then admits. "If I were to win there would soon no longer be any question of who had taken part and who had not."

This is the point at which mention is mde of the money an Olympic gold medallist can make on the side these days, illegally, of course, but openly.

That would not make him a rich man and was not the main argument either, but should be hang his head in shame for reminding people that this bonus too would no longer come his way?

Politicians and sports officials evidently think in much the same way, otherwise they would hardly pay Olympic victors a higher bonus than athletes who had worked equally hard in training but were unfortunately eliminated in their heats.

'I'm not a professional revolutionary'

Would he run the gauntlet of a boycott recommendation by Bonn if the opportunity arose? Certainly. Would he do so alone? Certainly not. He was a Bundeswehr medical corps staff officer, not a professional revolutionary.

He did not seem cut out to fight back in his own interest either. On TV he went on record as saying how depressed and disappointed he would be if he were unable to compete in Moscow.

At Warendorf in Westphalia he was due to attend a gathering of Olympic squad athletes at which, on the strength of it, it looked as though the team were now to be told to prepare for the inevitable.

He had, however, heard from Munich and Willi Daume's National Olympic Committee that the individual sports associations were to be asked for their views on a boycott, and he knew that nearly all field and track athletes wanted to go to Moscow. So he felt slightly more optimistic, although he had decided a week beforehand not to take part in a Dortmund protest demonstration by leading athletes.

"That gets you nowhere," he explained. Besides, strange though it might sound, he would sooner put in a training session. Training comes as second nature to an Olympic athlete, even if he may only be running in their air.

Herbert Riehl-Heyse

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 April 1980)